



## Iowans begin caucus voting, may clarify Democratic field

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)

— Caucus voting began across Iowa Monday night as Democrats balanced their desire for fundamental change with their craving to defeat President Donald Trump in the opening contest of the 2020 presidential primary season.

Nearly a dozen White House contenders were still vying for the chance to take on Trump in November, although Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses were expected to provide some clarity for what has been a muddled nomination fight for much of the last year.

As the evening caucuses opened their doors, there were signs of major enthusiasm.



Continued on page 3

Caucus goers check in at a caucus at Roosevelt High School, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

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## Report: Census hasn't tested tasks to catch false answers

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**  
Associated Press

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — With six weeks to go until most U.S. residents start filling out the 2020 Census questionnaire, an Inspector General's report says the Census Bureau hasn't tested a new process designed to help catch false answers.

The Inspector General's report released last week reviewed a 2018 test-run in Rhode Island of the once-a-decade head count, focusing on operations in which census takers go into neighborhoods seeking answers from homes where residents haven't filled out their forms.

The report found that the Census Bureau had planned to test the quality of the data collected



In this Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, file photo, U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham addresses state and Alaska Native leaders in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

from the forms by sending out census takers to homes where respondents gave suspicious answers. But the budget kept the bureau

from testing the new plan in Rhode Island, and "the untested process presents risk to the quality of 2020 Census data," the Inspector General's report said.

The bureau also has a plan to have census takers re-interview residents at some homes that already have been visited by a Census Bureau worker in order to serve as a check against any worker who gives falsified answers.

But the bureau was unable to fully test the plan in Rhode Island because of a staffing shortage, the report said.

The Inspector General's report said that some census takers were sent out to neighborhoods, during the test-run, before the bureau could verify they were trained properly. The report also noted that managers didn't respond to alerts about problems with census takers in 15 percent of cases.

The 2020 Census is the first

ever in which the Census Bureau is encouraging most respondents to answer the questionnaire online, although people can still respond by telephone or by mailing back paper forms. The 2020 count will help determine the allocation of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending and how many congressional seats each state gets.

In its response to the Inspector General's report, the Census Bureau said it had recently tested some parts of the plan meant to catch false answers. The bureau also said it had fixed a defect that had prevented it from recording the training-test scores of census takers. Regarding the alert system, the bureau said there were a number of alerts that were issued in error. □

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## Trump or Obama? Lawmakers fight over SC interchange name



President Donald Trump speaks during an event on human trafficking in the East Room of the White House, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

**GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)** — "President Donald J. Trump Interchange" or "President and First Lady Barack and Michelle Obama Interchange?" That is the soon-to-be fiercely debated question for state lawmakers

in South Carolina whose preferences fall along clear partisan lines. Each of the resolutions looks to name the junction of Interstate 85 and Interstate 385 near Greenville, where officials recently

spent \$300 million to build new bridges and untangle traffic. About 200,000 vehicles go through the area every day.

On Jan. 22, two Republicans introduced their resolution to name the interchange the "President Donald J. Trump Interchange." The resolution said Trump kept his promises to improve the economy and defund Planned Parenthood despite attacks from the "fake media."

Six days later, two Democrats introduced their resolution to name the same interchange the "President and First Lady Barack and Michelle Obama Interchange." Their resolution praises Obama for keeping health care costs down, helping to pass a hate crimes law and winning the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. □





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**Continued from front**

Outside Iowa City's Englert Theatre, long lines stretched a block in two directions. Organizers bracing for a large turnout opened the balcony for extra seating and warned early arrivals to expect delays.

By day's end, tens of thousands of Democrats were to have gathered at community centers, high school gyms and more than 1,600 other caucus locations in the premiere of more than 50 contests that will unfold over the next five months. The caucuses were rendering the first verdict on what the party stands for in the age of Trump — and who it feels is best positioned to take on the Republican president, whom Democratic voters are desperate to beat this fall.

One unsurprising development: Trump won the Republican caucus, a largely symbolic victory given that he faced no significant opposition.

For Democrats, the moment was thick with promise for a party that has seized major gains in states since Trump won the White House in 2016. But instead of clear optimism, a cloud of uncertainty and deepening intraparty resentment hung over Monday's election as the prospect of an unclear result raised fears of a long and divisive primary fight in the months ahead.

"I'm the one who can pull our party together," Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren told supporters on a telephone call before voting began, suggesting her rivals could not. They said they were the ones to bring unity.

Polls suggested that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders might have a narrow lead, but any of the top four candidates — Sanders, former Vice President Joe Biden, Warren and former South

Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg — could score a victory in Iowa's unpredictable and quirky caucus system as organizers prepared for record turnout. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who represents neighboring Minnesota, was also claiming momentum, while outsider candidates including entrepreneur Andrew Yang, billionaire activist Tom Steyer and Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard could be factors. "If anybody tells you they know who's going to win, either they've got a whisper from God or they're loony because nobody knows," said Deidre DeJear, who announced her support for Warren on Monday and was the first black woman to win a statewide primary in Iowa.

Roughly two-thirds of Iowa caucusgoers said supporting a candidate who would fundamentally change how the system in Washington works was important to their vote, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of voters who said they planned to take part in Monday's Democratic caucuses. That compared to about a third of caucusgoers who said it was more important to support a candidate who would restore the political system to how it was before Trump's election in 2016.

Iowa Democrats reported two major issues dominating their thoughts: health care and climate change. By midday Monday, a handful of satellite caucuses had already taken place some thousands of miles away from Iowa. In Glasgow, Scotland, Sanders received the most support from the 19 caucusgoers who attended, while Warren came in second and Buttigieg came in third. No other candidates were viable.

In Iowa, some 200,000 voters were expected.

The four senators in the field left Iowa late Sunday to return to the U.S. Capitol for Trump's impeachment trial, but did what they could to keep their campaigns going from Washington. While Warren held her telephone town hall, Klobuchar's husband and daughter appeared at a canvass launch in Des Moines. In suburban Des Moines, Buttigieg delivered about 100 volunteers a last shot of encouragement before they stepped out into the chill to knock on doors for him around midday Monday.

"We are exactly where we need to be to astonish the political world," he said, igniting cheers for the 38-year-old former midsize-city mayor, who was an asterisk a year ago and is now among the top candidates.

Meanwhile, Biden and his



**Local residents wait to enter an Iowa Democratic caucus at Hoover High School, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, in Des Moines, Iowa.**  
Associated Press

wife, Jill, delivered pizza Monday to a few dozen volunteers working the phones at his south Des Moines field office.

"I feel good," he said as he walked in, sporting his signature aviator sunglasses. Iowa offers just a tiny percentage of the delegates needed to win the nomination but plays an out-

size role in culling primary fields. A poor showing in Iowa could cause a front-runner's fundraising to slow and support in later states to dwindle, while a strong result can give a candidate much needed momentum. The past several Democrats who won the Iowa caucuses went on to clinch the party's nomination. □



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## Analysis: GOP sends message that Trump's actions were OK

By JULIE PACE  
AP Washington Bureau Chief

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Republicans have decided it was OK.

With their expected vote this coming week to acquit President Donald Trump of abusing power and obstructing Congress, GOP senators are giving their express approval to the conduct that landed Trump at the center of the fourth impeachment case in American history. It's the same message that House Republicans sent late last year with their unanimous votes against sending the case to trial.

It's a fitting conclusion for a president who has spent three years testing the boundaries of his office and daring his own party to restrain him as his power and popularity within the GOP grew. It was already clear heading into the impeachment inquiry just how reluctant Republicans were to challenge Trump's impulses. Coming out of the trial it's uncertain whether there is anything he can do in office that would draw more than a passing, rhetorical rebuke from his party.

To Democrats, who initiated the impeachment process in hopes of pulling at least a handful of moderate or retiring GOP lawmakers to their side, Republicans are sending the message that, when it comes to Trump, nothing matters. His grip on the party is complete.

"No," Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, one of the House Democratic impeachment managers, said in a retort to Republicans. "Lawlessness matters, abuse of power matters, corruption matters. The Constitution matters."

The reasons are clear for Republican lawmakers' fe-



**President Donald Trump, accompanied by first lady Melania Trump, gives thumbs up as he walks on the South Lawn as they depart the White House, Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, in Washington.**

Associated Press

alty to Trump. When he was a candidate in the 2016 primary, nearly all of them opposed him, often in terms as harsh as Democrats now use. Today, he inspires a loyalty borne of fear and retribution but also of the belief that Republicans' own political fortunes are directly tied to his.

Though that brings with it risk in the November election, most vulnerable Republicans cannot succeed without him.

On the brink of the acquittal vote, some Republican senators insist that doesn't mean they are simply giving Trump a pass. They argue there is more to consider in this moment than a yes or no question on whether Trump violated his oath of office by pushing Ukraine to investigate his Democratic opponents and blocking Congress' ability to investigate the matter.

GOP Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, who is not seeking reelection, called Trump's overtures to Ukraine "inappropriate" and thoroughly proved by House Democrats, but that Trump's actions did not rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., went

so far as to suggest Trump's actions may have indeed been impeachable, but Rubio argued that removing Trump from office was not the right remedy.

"Just because actions meet a standard of impeachment does not mean it is in the best interest of the country to remove a president from office," Rubio said.

But behind the flickers of disapproval and the sober, carefully parsed statements, the all but certain acquittal vote Wednesday means Republicans are also accepting Trump's behavior and establishing a precedent for the ways in which an American president can wield the power of the office for personal political gain.

Trump has long made clear that he sees few limits to his power. He saw vindication, not flashing warning lights, after special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into his possible obstruction of justice ended without any consequences. Shortly after that inquiry ended, Trump stated that the Constitution gives him "the right to do whatever I want as president." Indeed, his phone call with Ukraine's leader came just a day af-

ter Mueller testified before Congress.

At times during the impeachment case, Trump's lawyers echoed those same arguments, most notably when retired Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz said that if a president believes his personal interests are in the national interests, then his actions are not impeachable.

Though Dershowitz later tried to back away from the most expansive interpretations of his remarks, the crux of his argument remained: Trump wasn't out of bounds in seeking a foreign government's assistance for personal political gain, nor would he or a future president be if it happened again.

Democrats entered the impeachment process optimistic that this might be a moment that would weaken Trump's hold on his party. They believed this investigation was different from those that preceded it, including Mueller's, because it was rooted in Trump's own words to Ukraine's president and confirmed in a rough transcript made public by the president, who insisted the phone call was "perfect."

As the impeachment case began, some Republican lawmakers expressed public concern over the president's dealings with Ukraine; even more did so privately.

There were also moments that tested Republicans' loyalty to Trump.

The release of text messages from administration officials as they struggled with Trump's decision to involve his personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, in efforts to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and the Democratic National Committee. The televised

testimony of career public servants who raised grave concerns about Trump's actions in real time. Then, last week's revelation that former national security John Bolton will reveal in an upcoming book that the president told him directly that crucial military aid to Ukraine was being held up until Ukraine agreed to the investigations into Democrats.

But those moments of GOP anxiety proved to be fleeting. Time after time, Republicans found reasons to stand by the president.

Their reasons were many. The aid to Ukraine was ultimately released. There were real questions about a potential conflict of interest with Biden given his son's work with a Ukrainian energy company. And in the ultimate chicken-or-egg argument, GOP senators said they couldn't support conviction — or even a hearing for new witnesses — because the process had not been bipartisan.

"It seems like the die has been cast here," Biden said Friday after a campaign event in Iowa. The only remedy that remains, he said, comes in November. "I just have to beat him in the general election," he said of Trump.

Trump will now campaign with the stain of impeachment on his record, but it's unclear whether the case that has tied up Washington for four months will still be fresh in voters' minds in November.

One thing that is certain is that Trump's acquittal will be followed by new revelations related to the impeachment case. Among them: legal cases pending that relate to Giuliani's work in Ukraine and documents that have yet to be made public. □



# AP Exclusive: Border apprehensions drop 8 straight months

By COLLEEN LONG and BEN FOX

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of border apprehensions has dropped for the eighth straight month, following crackdowns by the Trump administration that include forcing asylum seekers back over the U.S.-Mexico border to wait out their claims, a Homeland Security official said Monday.

The official said the number of encounters with border officials over the past four months was 165,000. A year earlier during the same time it was about 242,000. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the official results have not been released.

The tally for the month of January was about 36,000, including apprehensions of people crossing illegally and migrants who were declared inadmissible by border officers at a port of entry. It was a 10 percent decline from December.

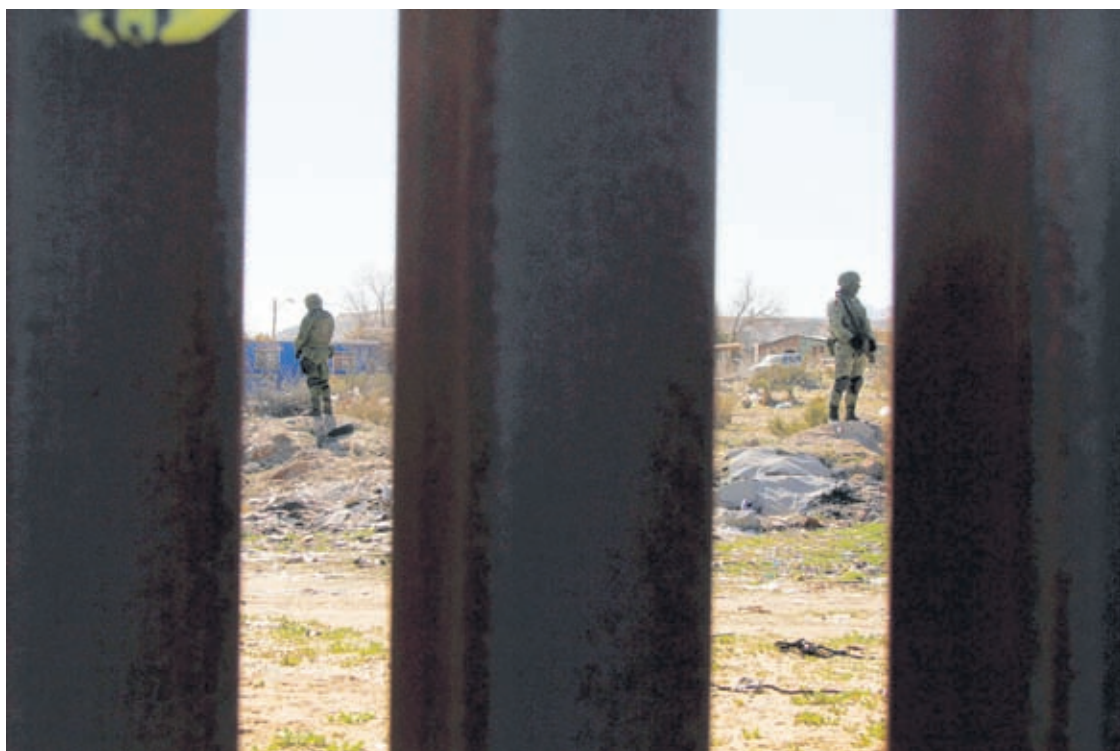
The steep decline will almost certainly figure heavily into President Donald Trump's State of the Union address Tuesday. Trump has made cracking down on immigration — legal and illegal — a signature issue. He has railed against asylum seekers and other border crossers as con artists who "scam" the system, and derided immigrants

from Mexico as "bad hombres."

Trump uses the monthly border tallies as a benchmark to determine how his policies are working, railing against Homeland Security officials when the numbers are up. The number of people crossing the border traditionally declines when it's hot outside — but the winter months often see creeping increases.

The monthly tally is down almost 75 percent from the peak last May, when there were more than 144,000 encounters with migrants, the large majority families from Central America who are not easily returned over the border. The immigration system was vastly strained last spring, with migrants crammed for weeks into small border stations not meant to hold people beyond a few days. News of the conditions in the border stations, coupled with migrant deaths, promoted massive outrage and pushed Congress into emergency funding to help ease the crush.

The reduction comes at a cost. More than 55,000 asylum seekers, including families and pregnant women, have been sent over the border to Mexico to wait out their asylum cases and have faced sickness and squalid conditions in makeshift camps, plus assault and kidnapping by cartels that patrol the borderlands.



Mexican National Guard troops patrolling the country's northern border are seen from Sunland Park, New Mexico on Friday, Jan. 31, 2020, in the nearby town of Sunland Park, New Mexico.

Associated Press

Mexico has also stepped up its own border enforcement, making clear that caravans that once traveled through its territory are no longer allowed to do so, following intense pressure and threatened trade tariffs from Washington last year. And U.S. policy now essentially bans

anyone from claiming asylum if they crossed through another country first. Officials are also now sending asylum seekers to Central American nations as part of a border security agreements with Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Despite the nosedive at the border, asylum seekers are

still signing up on a waiting list to enter the U.S. at an official crossing in San Luis, Arizona. U.S. Customs and Border Protection calls the Mexican shelter that manages the list to say how many asylum claims it will process each day. The shelter estimates the wait at three to four months. □

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# BP oil spill cash rebuilds eroded Louisiana pelican island

By JANET McCONAUGHEY  
Associated Press

**QUEEN BESS ISLAND, La.**  
(AP) — A Louisiana island that provides a crucial nesting ground for pelicans and other seabirds is being restored to nearly its former size after decades of coastal erosion and a devastating offshore oil spill 10 years ago.

Gov. John Bel Edwards visited the island Monday, unveiling a sign dedicating it as a wildlife refuge. "The walk we just made wouldn't have been possible a few weeks ago," the governor said after crossing an expanse of sand bearing tread marks from heavy equipment used to create and grade new land.

He spoke at a podium set up before waist-high mangroves, which contractors left untouched for pelicans to nest on. About 6,500 brown pelicans and 3,000 smaller seabirds cram their nests every summer onto Queen Bess Island, which shrank from 45 acres (18 hectares) in 1956 to about 15 acres (6 hectares) of marsh by 2010, when the Deepwater Horizon spill fouled its beaches with oily gunk.

Until the restoration, only about 5 acres (2 hectares) — most of it along the island's edges and the outlines left by short-lived res-



Pelicans fly over and sit on man made rock revetment on Queen Bess Island in Barataria Bay, La., Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Associated Press

tations in the 1990s — was high enough for pelicans to nest, said Todd Baker, a biologist supervising restoration for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Once a mere strip of land, the island now covers 37 acres (15 hectares), with most of it for the increasingly cramped birds. Edwards said the \$18.7 million project to enlarge and maintain the island is part of \$550 million that has restored more than 4,200 acres (1,700 hectares) of Louisiana's coast and islands. More than \$800 million in additional work is expected across Louisiana

this year, he said.

Though barely a blip of an island off the Gulf of Mexico in Barataria Bay, Queen Bess plays an outsize role as one of Louisiana's largest rookeries for brown pelicans, supplying real estate for up to a fifth of the state's nests. It's also where the pelican, Louisiana's state bird, was reintroduced in the 1960s after pesticides had killed off the state's entire population.

Loss of the small islands where pelicans nest has crowded the big birds into about 10 colonies, fewer than half the number in 2010, Baker said. "When

you're a tiny island you're on the front lines of sea-level rise and coastal erosion." Funds to restore Queen Bess Island and for future monitoring and upkeep flow from a \$20 billion settlement that the federal government and the five Gulf Coast states reached with energy giant BP PLC for environmental damage from the 2010 spill.

The offshore explosion and fire that year on BP's leased drilling rig killed 11 people. The well spewed more than 100 million gallons (378 million liters) of oil into the water over 87 days.

When the oil reached the

island about 45 miles (72 kilometers) south of New Orleans, more than 1,000 birds died. Brown pelicans and other birds could be seen struggling, their wings weighed down by black muck.

Contractors for Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority enlarged the island by dredging up Mississippi River sand and pumping it inside the outlines of rock and other material from the 1990s restoration, which used silt. The sand, designers hope, will be more stable. The authority also built a line of rock breakwaters 75 to 95 feet (23 to 29 meters) from shore to slow erosion and provide calm water for young birds.

Most of the island is being restored as a pelican habitat, with 7 acres (2.8 hectares) for skimmers, terns and other birds that nest on rocks.

In recent years, Baker said, nests have been so jammed "you can't hardly step on land without touching a nest."

He said the crowding has made the island's woody plants look like apartment houses, with nest above nest: perhaps a laughing gull on the ground, an egret or roseate spoonbill in middle branches and a brown pelican nest at the top. □



Lev Parnas speaks to the media outside a Manhattan courthouse in New York on Monday, Feb. 3, 2019.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — An October trial date was set Monday for two associates of Rudy Giuliani who are charged with making illegal campaign contribu-

tions. Lev Parnas was the only defendant among four men facing trial to be at a Manhattan courthouse when U.S. District Judge J. Paul Oetken set the Oct. 5

## October criminal trial date set for Giuliani associates

trial date.

If the trial begins on time, it will occur a month before the presidential election. Parnas was smiling and wearing an American-flag pin in court. Outside court, he declined to say if he was cooperating. He said he believes the truth will emerge.

Parnas and fellow defendant Igor Fruman had worked with Giuliani to try to convince Ukraine to announce an investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden. Biden is seeking the

Democratic presidential nomination.

Last week, Parnas got permission from the judge to travel to Washington, where he sought to attend the U.S. Senate's impeachment trial of President Donald Trump. He was not able to get in because he was wearing an electronic bracelet on his ankle as part of his bail conditions. Parnas and Fruman have pleaded not guilty to charges alleging they made illegal campaign contributions to further their

business interests and political goals, including the campaign to get the U.S. to replace Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch in Ukraine.

Parnas recently provided congressional investigators with a recording of an April 2018 dinner meeting in which Trump demanded her removal. She was subsequently removed.

Parnas attended the small dinner at his Washington hotel. The recording seemed to contradict the president's statements that he did not know Parnas. □



# 1 dead, 5 wounded in shooting on Greyhound bus in California

By STEFANIE DAZIO

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A man cursing and muttering incoherently opened fire aboard a packed Greyhound bus in Southern California early Monday, killing one person and wounding five others in a seemingly random attack before passengers disarmed him, authorities and a witness said. The driver of the Los Angeles-to-San Francisco bus pulled off onto the shoulder, where some of those aboard led the killer off the vehicle, and he was quickly taken into custody, California Highway Patrol Sgt. Brian Pennings said. The driver continued on to the next exit as passengers performed first aid on the wounded, he said. The motive for the shooting was not immediately known, and there was no indication the gunman knew any of the victims, Pennings said. He said several ammunition magazines were discovered along with the gun. The bus was traveling on Interstate 5 near the small mountain community of Lebec, about 70 miles (113 kilometers) northwest of Los Angeles, when the passenger started shooting with a semi-automatic handgun shortly before 1:30 a.m.

Forty-three people were aboard, including 6- and 8-year-old children, who were not hurt. The dead passenger was identified as a 51-year-old woman from Colombia. Two victims were hospitalized with serious injuries, Pennings said. The remaining passengers were later driven to Northern California on another bus. Passenger Mark Grabban, 29, told The Associated Press that the gunman had been sitting with his leg sticking out into the aisle, muttering to himself incoherently. "He was just saying weird stuff like 'you don't know me like that,' 'wait til we get to the station,' 'get away from the dude in the striped shirt,'" Grabban said in a series of Instagram messages. Suddenly, the man started cursing and shooting, Grabban said. Grabban hid beneath the seat in front of him. He said the gunman seemed to fire eight or nine shots that "seemed to go on forever." He added: "I was waiting for one to hit me." "I thought I was shot because I felt a rush of heat on the back of my head as I went down," he said. "But I guess I just smashed my head on the seat as I went



Investigators are seen outside of a Greyhound bus after a passenger was killed on board on Monday, Feb. 3, 2020 in Lebec, Calif.

Associated Press

down to the floor." Then, silence fell. The injured passengers began moaning, and others started panicking. It was dark outside and they couldn't see what the gunman was doing after he got off the bus. Grabban said the driver of the stopped vehicle asked over the loudspeaker if anyone had been hurt and did not immediately pull away. "Everyone was screaming at him to drive off," Grabban said.

Pennings said the driver's actions "were very appropriate and one could say heroic." The officer gave no immediate details on how the passengers disarmed the killer or made him get off the bus. Passengers told Grabban someone wrestled the gun away from the shooter, but he didn't witness it, he said. No immediate charges were brought against the suspect, whose name was not released.

Grabban, who was sitting near the back of the bus with his girlfriend, picked up the gun's empty magazine clip and handed it to the driver. A casing ended up on Grabban's lap, and he noticed a bullet hole in the floor next to him. "I saw the blood on the floor of the aisle," Grabban told NBC News. "I looked to the woman on the left, and she wasn't responding, wasn't moving or anything. She was lifeless." □

## 2 women killed, child hurt in shooting at Texas dormitory

**COMMERCE, Texas (AP)** — Two women were killed and a child was wounded in a shooting Monday morning at a university dormitory in Texas, officials said. A recommendation for students and employees to shelter in place was lifted early Monday afternoon at Texas A&M University-Commerce, and police said there appeared to be no other threats. Officials have not identified the suspected shooter. University police Chief Bryan Vaughn said officers responding to a call at about 10:17 a.m. found two dead women in a room at Pride

Rock residence hall on the campus in Commerce, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) northeast of Dallas. He said a boy about 2 years old was also in the room and was taken to a hospital, where he was in stable condition. Vaughn did not take questions after a news conference and did not say if the women were students. The university canceled classes after the shooting and later said classes will not resume until Thursday. The university lifted the shelter-in-place recommendation about an hour and a half after it was announced

on Twitter. But the university said that even with the lifting of the recommendation, the residence hall and the surrounding area was still blocked off due to the ongoing investigation. The university said the student center would be available for displaced students and that counselors were available there. Larry Cooper III, a freshman who lives in the Pride Rock residence hall, told the Dallas Morning News that he left his room Monday just before the shelter-in-place was announced. He said he was waiting in a friend's room on the first floor of the



Law enforcement officers gather outside of Pride Rock residence hall following a shooting, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, at Texas A&M University-Commerce in Commerce, Texas.

Associated Press

residence hall. "There's police blocking the doorways, but other than that we're all just kind of sitting in and waiting on the news to happen," Cooper said.

Last October, two people were killed and a dozen others injured in an off-campus shooting at a homecoming and Halloween party involving Texas A&M-Commerce students. □



# U.K. to end early release of terror convicts after stabbings

**LONDON (AP)** — The British government said Monday it will introduce emergency legislation to stop people convicted of terror crimes being released after serving half their sentences, following two attacks in London by recently freed offenders.

The announcement came the day after an Islamic extremist who had recently been released from prison wounded two people in south London, despite being under police surveillance. Sudesh Amman, 20, strapped on a fake bomb and stabbed two people on a busy street before being shot dead by police.

"Yesterday's appalling incident makes the case plainly for immediate action," Justice Secretary Robert Buckland told lawmakers. "We will therefore introduce emergency legislation to put an end to terrorist offenders getting released automatically having served half of their sentence with no check or review."

He said terror convicts would have to serve at least two-thirds of their sentences, and wouldn't be freed before the end of their full terms unless the Parole Board agreed.

Buckland said the new rules would apply to people who are currently serving sentences as well as those sentenced in the future. More than 70 people convicted



Police officers inspect a bus as they work at the scene of Sunday's terror stabbing attack in the Streatham area of south London Monday Feb. 3, 2020.

Associated Press

of terrorism offenses have been released in Britain after serving time in prison and more than 200 others are currently imprisoned.

Following Sunday's attack and a Nov. 29 attack in which two people were killed near London Bridge in central London, the government has vowed to impose longer sentences for terror crimes and overhaul the conditions under which offenders are released back into the community.

"This is a liberal country, it is a tolerant country," Prime Minister Boris Johnson said. "But I think the idea of automatic early release for

people who obviously continue to pose a threat to the public has come to the end of its useful life."

He said the difficulty is how to apply new laws retrospectively to those currently in the system. He added that de-radicalizing people is a "very, very difficult thing to do" and that he was concerned about the way convicted terrorists in prison are handled.

"Do you detain them en bloc, in one group, and try to keep them together because that avoids them, as it were, infecting or passing the virus of their beliefs to others in jails, or do you

disperse them and try to stop them reinfecting each other?" he said.

Amman had been convicted in 2018 of publishing graphic terrorist videos online and had stockpiled instructions on bomb making and knife attacks.

He was sentenced to three years and four months. Taking into account time served after his arrest, he was freed a week ago, Buckland said.

Police on Monday continued to search a hostel near the attack site where Amman had been staying, and also raided another property outside of London.

Officers had been trailing Amman at the time of Sunday's attack, police said, but were unable to head off the bloodshed in the commercial and residential south London neighborhood of Streatham, where Amman struck outside a major pharmacy on a busy shopping afternoon.

The intelligence think tank SITE reported that the Islamic State group claimed that the south London attack was perpetrated by one of its "fighters."

IS has been responsible for deadly attacks in Europe in the past few years, but also has a track record of claiming attacks as its own, often with no evidence to prove it. In some cases, the attacks turned out to be carried out by perpetrators with no known ties to the extremist group.

The attack in London recalled a November stabbing attack carried out by another man who had served prison time for terrorism offenses. Two people were killed in that attack.

Counter-terrorism officials have warned of the threat posed by militants unless the government couples prison sentences with effective de-radicalization programs.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan of the opposition Labour Party said Sunday's attack was clearly foreseeable in the wake of the London Bridge killings. □

## 4 Iranian separatists arrested in Denmark and Netherlands

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)** — Four members of an Iranian separatist group, the Arab Struggle Movement for the Liberation of Ahwaz, have been arrested in Denmark and the Netherlands.

Three were arrested Monday in Ringsted, 60 kilometers (40 miles) southwest of Copenhagen, for the suspected spying of people and companies for an unnamed Saudi intelligence service over a period of six years from 2012. Another was arrested in the historic Dutch city of Delft for al-

legedly plotting one or more terror attacks in Iran and for membership of a terrorist organization.

"We are talking about a very complex case where two countries — Iran and Saudi Arabia — are bringing internal strife into this country," Danish security service chief Finn Borch Andersen said.

The three members of the London-based group who were arrested in Denmark could face a pre-trial custody hearing Tuesday in Roskilde, 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Copenha-

gen. If found guilty, they face a potential life sentence, which in Denmark is on average 16 years. No further details of those arrested, including their sex or age, were disclosed.

Borch Andersen said the arrests in Denmark were linked to a case in the Netherlands where police arrested a 40-year-old man. Dutch police said that part of the ASMLA movement has an armed wing that carries out attacks in Iran, mainly against the Iranian Revolutionary Guard as well as oil and gas fields.

The arrests are also said to be linked to a 2018 police operation over an alleged Iranian plot to kill one or more opponents of the Iranian government. The operation briefly cut off the island on which Copenhagen sits from the rest of Denmark.

An unnamed Norwegian citizen of Iranian descent was arrested in Oct. 2018 on suspicion of helping an unspecified Iranian intelligence service "to act in Denmark" and of alleged involvement in the assassination plot. That suspect

has denied wrongdoing and is being held in pre-trial custody. Tehran has accused ASMLA for an attack on a military parade in the Iranian city of Ahwaz in Sept. 2018, that left at least 25 people dead. The group has condemned the violence and said it was not involved.

Borch Andersen also said a member of an Iranian intelligence agency who is not in Denmark, was jailed in absentia for being the handler of the Norwegian citizen. No further details were available. □



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## U.N. health agency tackles misinformation over virus outbreak

By JAMEY KEATEN  
Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — The World Health Organization chief has traveled a dozen times to monitor the Ebola response in violence-marred eastern Congo. But when he planned to visit China's capital last week over a new viral outbreak emerging from central Hubei province, his daughter got worried.

"Before I left for Beijing, my daughter was saying, 'Oh, you should not go,'" WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus confided to the U.N. health agency's executive board in a public session on Monday.

The account exemplifies the fine line WHO officials are navigating between fear about the new coronavirus and hopes of increasing international preparedness about an outbreak that has taken more than 360 lives and infected at least 17,238 people in China since late December — and could become a pandemic. So far, growth has been exponential in China, but elsewhere cases remain under 150, scattered across nearly two dozen countries.

"Instead of spending time on fear and panic, we should say this is the time to prepare," Tedros said. "Because 146 cases, by any standard, is very low."

As governments clamp down on travel to China, airlines suspend flights and Chinese nationals fret about rising xenophobia and ostracism, WHO is calibrating a message of praise to Chinese officials and trying to focus on the epicen-

ter — Wuhan city and surrounding Hubei province — to keep the virus from spiraling out of control. It also wants to help get weaker health systems ready.

Before he left for the meeting with President Xi Jinping last week, Tedros reassured his daughter: "It's ok, it's not all over China."

"Even in China, the virus is not evenly spread everywhere, and the risk is not the same," he recalled. "When I was in Beijing, what we had discussed with the authorities is that our concentrated effort should be in the epicenters, or the sources of the virus."

Pausing on a couple of occasions to cough, clear his throat, and drink some water, Tedros quipped: "Don't worry: It's not corona," prompting laughter.

WHO is also battling misinformation, working with Google to ensure that people get facts from the U.N. health agency first when they search for information about the virus. Social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Tencent and TikTok have also taken steps to limit the spread of misinformation and rumors about the outbreak.

Chinese officials are increasingly speaking out. At the executive board meeting, Ambassador Li Song, deputy permanent representative for China in Geneva, lashed out at flight cancellations, visa denials and refusals by some countries to admit citizens of Hubei province — saying those moves went against WHO recommendations.

Li noted how President Xi, in his meeting with Tedros, had said the coronavirus



**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), waits prior the opening of the 146th session of the World Health Organization Executive Board, at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.**

Associated Press

epidemic "is a devil — we cannot let the devil hide." "At the same time, the international community needs to treat the new virus objectively, fairly, calmly, and rationally, and not over-interpret it negatively and pessimistically, or deliberately create panic," Li said. "We need facts, not fear. We need science, not rumors. We need solidarity, not stigma."

Since the outbreak began, a number of misleading claims and hoaxes about the virus have circulated online. They include false conspiracy theories that the virus was created in a lab and that vaccines have already been manufactured, exaggerations about the number of sick and dead, and claims about bogus cures.

On Sunday, WHO lament-

ed that the outbreak and response have been accompanied "by a massive 'infodemic' — an overabundance of information, some accurate and some not — that makes it hard for people to find trustworthy sources and reliable guidance when they need it. The report said WHO, the U.N. health agency, was working "24 hours a day to identify the most prevalent rumors that can potentially harm the public's health, such as false prevention measures or cures."

Tedros also addressed his decision last week to classify the virus outbreak as a global emergency, saying the move was prompted by increased human-to-human spread of the virus to numerous countries and the fear it could have a significant impact on devel-

oping countries with weaker health systems.

Tedros said recent outbreaks such as the new virus and Ebola demonstrated the shortcomings of the "binary" emergency system, calling it "too restrictive, too simplistic, and not fit for purpose."

"We have a green light, a red light, and nothing in-between," he said, adding that WHO was considering options to allow for an "intermediate level of alert." In July, Tedros declared the Ebola outbreak in Congo a global emergency: There have been 3,421 cases and 2,242 deaths from it since the outbreak began 18 months ago.

The WHO executive board, which is starting a six-day meeting, plans to hold a special technical session on the virus Tuesday. □



# Israeli PM meets Sudan's leader, aims for 'normalization'

**KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)** — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday he met with the leader of Sudan's transitional government and that they began the process of normalization, a major diplomatic breakthrough after years of Israeli efforts to improve ties with African nations.

Netanyahu said he met with Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan in Entebbe, Uganda, a meeting that was only made public afterwards when the prime minister tweeted about it in Hebrew.

"We agreed to begin cooperation that will lead to normalization of relations between the two countries," Netanyahu tweeted. "History!"

Netanyahu's office said the meeting came at the invitation of Uganda. It said Netanyahu "believes that Sudan is moving in a new and positive direction, and the prime minister expressed his views to the U.S. Secretary of State."

That appeared to be a reference to Sudan's efforts to be removed from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, a key step in rebuilding its economy following the uprising that toppled longtime strongman Omar al-Bashir last year.

In recent years, Netanyahu has pushed to improve ties with African countries that have long had cool relations with Israel over the conflict with the Palestinians. Restoring diplomatic ties with Sudan — a member of the Arab League — will be seen in Israel as a major achievement. U.S. allies Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab countries



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu listens to Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

that have peace agreements with Israel. It could also give Netanyahu a boost ahead of March 2 elections. He has portrayed himself as a world-class statesman who has developed close ties with world leaders as he has tried to keep the focus off his recent indictment on corruption charges.

Netanyahu arrived in Uganda on Monday, saying his country is "returning to Africa in a big way" and urging the East African country to open an embassy in Jerusalem.

Before departing Israel, Netanyahu spoke of "very important diplomatic, economic and security ties that will yet be told about." He said that at the end of his visit to the East African nation he hopes to "have very good news" for Israel.

The Israeli leader was welcomed by Uganda's prime minister at the international airport in Entebbe, where Netanyahu's brother Yonatan was fatally struck by a bullet as he led Israeli commandos in a daring mission to rescue hijacked Israeli passengers in 1976. Israel's success in the raid humiliated then-Ugandan President Idi Amin, under whose rule Israel closed its embassy in Uganda.

Netanyahu, who was accompanied by his wife Sara, held a meeting with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and other officials. In a news conference later on Monday, Netanyahu said he would open an embassy in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, if Museveni established one in Jerusalem. The Ugandan leader responded by saying his

government is "studying" the matter.

Most countries have their embassies in Tel Aviv because they view the final status of Jerusalem as something that should be negotiated with the Palestinians. President Donald Trump broke with that consensus when he recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moved the U.S. Embassy there in 2018. The move infuriated the Palestinians, who cut off contacts with the U.S.

Museveni has repeatedly said Uganda supports a two-state solution to the Palestinian issue. During Netanyahu's trip to Uganda in 2016, Museveni urged both sides to live "side by side in two states ... in peace and with recognized borders." Last week, Trump unveiled his long-awaited Mideast

peace initiative, which heavily favors Israel. It would allow Israel to keep all of its settlements in the West Bank and most of annexed east Jerusalem, territories captured by Israel in the 1967 war.

The Palestinians want east Jerusalem and the West Bank as part of their future state. The Trump plan would instead grant them limited autonomy over Gaza, chunks of the West Bank and some sparsely populated areas of Israel, with a capital on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

The Palestinians have adamantly rejected the plan, and the Arab League — including Sudan — backed their position at an emergency meeting on Saturday.

The Palestinians view Israeli settlements in east Jerusalem and the West Bank as an obstacle to peace. Most of the international community supports that position and considers them illegal.

Israel has long courted African support. In exchange for its expertise in security and other fields, Israel wants African states to side with it at the U.N. General Assembly, which overwhelmingly recognized Palestine as a non-member observer state in 2012.

Reports in Israel in recent years have suggested it might normalize diplomatic relations with several Muslim countries in Africa. Israel renewed diplomatic relations with Guinea in 2016. After Netanyahu visited Chad for a renewal of ties in 2019, it was reported that Israel was working to formalize ties with Sudan. □

## Al-Qaida in Yemen claims deadly Florida naval base shooting

By **SAMY MAGDY**  
Associated Press

**CAIRO (AP)** — Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen claimed responsibility Sunday for last year's deadly shooting at the Naval Air Station Pensacola by an aviation student from Saudi Arabia. The shooter, 2nd Lt. Mohammed Saeed Alshamrani, was a member of the

Saudi Air Force in training at the base. He opened fire inside a classroom at the base on Dec. 6, killing three people and wounding two sheriff's deputies before one of the deputies killed him. Eight others were also hurt.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, released a video claiming

the attack. SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks messaging by militant groups, reported the claim.

AQAP has long been considered the global network's most dangerous branch and has attempted to carry out attacks on the U.S. mainland.

The 18-minute video did not provide evidence of

training the shooter, but did indicate that Alshamrani and AQAP were in communication, said Rita Katz, director of SITE. It was not clear when the video was recorded.

The video claimed that Alshamrani had been planning for years to attack a U.S. base, and had been training and "selecting" tar-

gets.

The video, which was viewed by The Associated Press, provided a will written by Alshamrani to his family in September 2019, three months prior to attack. He said he wanted to attack the U.S., citing religious reasons. However, he made no mention of al-Qaida. □





Riot police block a road to prevent protesting migrants from reaching the island's main town of Mytilene during a demonstration on the northeastern Aegean island of Lesbos, Greece, on Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Associated Press

## North Macedonia: Migrants allegedly held to ransom, abused

**SKOPJE, North Macedonia (AP)** — Authorities in North Macedonia have filed criminal charges against three Pakistanis and a Macedonian man for allegedly imprisoning a group of migrants and holding them to ransom, officials said Monday.

The prosecutor's office said the men were believed to have behaved in a "particularly degrading and cruel" manner to the 12 migrants, including two minors, from India, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

They were allegedly detained for two weeks in October in a house in the country's north. The four suspects were arrested last year but the arrests were announced Monday.

According to the prosecution, the suspects "caused (the migrants) to lose their sense of time, gave them food only once a day and physically abused them." They also allegedly demanded money from their prisoners' relatives in other European countries and threatened to kill the migrants when they asked to be freed.

One migrant managed to contact relatives who reported the case to Serbian authorities, who in turn informed police in North Macedonia, the prosecutor's office said.

The three Pakistanis were arrested and are in custody

pending trial. If convicted, they face up to eight years in prison. The Macedonian national, who owns the house where the migrants were allegedly being held, has also been charged and is under house arrest.

North Macedonia is a key stage on the route many migrants take through the Balkans towards prosperous European countries after illegally entering neighboring Greece — mostly on small smuggling boats from Turkey. On the Greek island of Lesbos, where most of the boats arrive, migrants clashed with police Monday during a protest over severe overcrowding at the local Moria camp and delays in Greece's asylum procedure.

Riot police used tear gas to disperse several hundred protesters who had planned to march from the camp to the island capital of Mytilene, about 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) away. No arrests or injuries were reported.

Also Monday, police in Cyprus said they safely escorted to the coastal town of Larnaca a boat with 87 Syrian migrants that had left from the Turkish port of Mersin and was spotted by radar off island nation's southeastern tip.

The 61 men, 10 women and 16 children were taken to a reception center outside the capital Nicosia. □



This Aug. 22, 2017 file shows the upper floors of the Johannesburg Central Police Station, formerly known as John Foster Square, in Johannesburg, where medical doctor and former activist Neil Aggett is alleged to have committed suicide while in police custody in 1982.

Associated Press

## South Africa probes apartheid-era death in police custody

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — Being hanged upside down until unconsciousness. Daily beatings. Being forced to do strenuous exercises while naked.

These are some of the abuses perpetrated by South Africa's police when activist Neil Aggett died in custody in 1982, according to witnesses who were jailed at the same time.

The harrowing testimony came at the inquest into the death of Aggett, a medical doctor and union activist, who police at the time said hanged himself. But his family and others say they believe he died as a result of torture by authorities during apartheid, South Africa's previous and brutal regime of racial discrimination.

Aggett, 28, was held by police for 70 days without charges before he died. Fellow prisoners who saw him said he appeared to have been badly tortured. "He was struggling to walk. He was bending forward almost like he was unable to pick his body up. It felt like the time I myself had my hands chained against my feet," said the Rev. Frank Chikane, an anti-apartheid activist who saw Aggett while both were held by police.

"He was slow like a patient,

he looked very weak and stressed," said Chikane.

Chikane, a prominent former anti-apartheid activist, described how he was tortured by police in the same police building, now known as Johannesburg Central Police Station.

"They hanged me head down. They put me on a broom and hanged me with my head facing down until I lost consciousness. I don't know how long that lasted. By the time I regained consciousness, they took me back to the cell," said Chikane.

Another former prisoner, Barbara Hogan, told how a handcuffed Aggett gave her a defiant clenched fist salute as police officers led him through a corridor.

Hogan, who later became a Cabinet minister in South Africa's post-apartheid government, said she was subjected to daily abuse by police.

According to Hogan, she was handcuffed to a chair and repeatedly slapped in the face, among other punishments. She said had attempted to kill herself to end the abuse.

"I saw no way of getting out of the situation. I had friends who had been tortured badly," she said.

Hogan said she regretted that a report she had com-

piled had been intercepted by the apartheid police and led to the arrest of activists including Aggett.

Aggett had been forced to do strenuous exercises while naked, said another former prisoner Maurice Smithers.

Aggett's family has pursued the case for years.

The inquest into Aggett's death follows that of Ahmed Timol, an anti-apartheid activist who also died in police detention. That investigation determined that Timol did not die of suicide, as the apartheid regime had said, but had been killed. Former policeman Joao Rodrigues is set to go on trial for Timol's killing after a South African court last year declined his application for a permanent halt of his prosecution. At least 67 detainees had died while in the custody of the apartheid government's secret police, said Jabulani Mlotshwa of the National Prosecuting Authority.

"Those are the ones which we know of. The grim reality is that the count was probably higher," he said.

Representing the Aggett family, advocate Howard Varney said their aim is to get the 1982 ruling that Aggett killed himself overturned. □



# Brazil's government blasts Oscar-nominated documentary-maker

**Associated Press**

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — Brazil's government criticized Oscar-nominated filmmaker Petra Costa on Monday after she once more labeled far-right President Jair Bolsonaro a risk to the country's democracy.

Costa's documentary about the 2016 impeachment of former President Dilma Rousseff, "The Edge of Democracy," has been praised by leftists and loathed by conservatives in the politically divided nation.

Ahead of the competition for the best documentary Oscar on Feb. 9, Costa spoke on PBS and once more accused Bolsonaro of stimulating "farmers and loggers to invade indigenous reserves, burn and deforest the Amazon, which is already at a tipping point in which it could become a savanna."

She also repeated her accusation that the Brazilian president has attacked the rights of minorities. Costa made similar statements before she was nominated, but this time Brazil's government chose to answer through an official social media channel.

"Filmmaker Petra Costa played the role of an an-



**Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, left, and Paulo Skaf, president of the Sao Paulo's Industries Federation, FIESP, arrive for a meeting with Brazilian businessmen in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

ti-Brazil activist and tarnished the country's image abroad with a series of fake news in an interview on American television," the communication secretariat for Brazil's presidency said in a string of posts on Twitter, in both English and in Portuguese.

"Without the slightest sense of respect for her homeland and for the Brazilian people, Petra said in an unreasonable script that the Amazon will become a savanna soon and that President Bolsonaro orders the murder of both African-Americans and homosexuals," it added.

Bolsonaro has also criti-

cized the 36-year-old Costa's documentary. As fringe lawmaker, he was a staunch advocate of Rousseff's removal and famously celebrated the man who tortured her during the country's military dictatorship during his vote in favor of her ouster.

Costa did not immediately respond a request for comment from The Associated Press.

In the documentary, the Brazilian director uses her personal story to suggest the abrupt end to 13 years of Workers' Party rule came along with a desire for an autocracy similar to the 1964-1985 dictatorship. □



**In this Oct. 17, 2019 file photo, Ecuador's President Lenin Moreno waves to supporters gathered at Independence square, from the government palace's balcony in Quito, Ecuador.**

**Associated Press**

## Ecuador president slammed for ugly words about harassment

**QUITO, Ecuador (AP)** —

Ecuador's President Lenín Moreno has scrambled to apologize for comments suggesting women tend to complain about sexual harassment when it comes from ugly people.

In a speech to investors Friday in the port city of Guayaquil, Moreno said men were under threat of being denounced for harassment and added, "at times, with harassment, they torment ugly people."

"That is to say, that the harassment is when it comes from an ugly person," he added. "But if the person looks good according to the standards, they tend not to think necessarily that

it is harassment."

That prompted immediate outrage from women's rights activists and others.

Governing party congresswoman Soleda Buendía complained on Twitter that Moreno "justifies and reproduces violence against women. You can't joke about harassment, rape, femicide, trafficking, sexual exploitation.... Nothing justifies expressions that revictimize us!"

The Women for Change organization joined in: "It is not that everything now looks to women like harassment, it is that to machos like you it has never seemed bad to harass!" the group tweeted. □

## Watchdog group says Guyana lost billions in Exxon oil deal

**By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**  
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — A natural-resource watchdog group alleges in a new report that Guyana may have lost as much as \$55 billion in potential revenue by poorly negotiating a deal with Exxon Mobil to pump reserves that are expected to make the small South American country into the world's newest major oil producer.

London- and Washington-based Global Witness says in the report released Monday that the 2016 deal giving Guyana 52 percent of the revenue from oil pumped from a massive offshore oil block was far

better for Exxon than Guyana because such deals typically give national governments 65 to 85 percent of revenues.

"A country with inadequate schools, a declining sugar industry, and crumbling sea defenses that cannot protect it from rising sea levels deserves a better deal," the group says.

Exxon said the report failed to account for the risk the oil giant assumed in exploring the unproven deep water area known as Stabroek.

"The conclusions drawn are based on hypotheticals and circular reasoning that do not take into con-

sideration Guyana's status as a frontier hydrocarbon province," the company said Monday. "The conclusions are misleading in that they compare Guyana deep water with mature hydrocarbon producing provinces which naturally have evolved fiscal frameworks reflecting maturity and lower risk profiles."

Much of the area also is subject to a border dispute with Venezuela.

A Guyana government spokesman said officials were reviewing the report and planned to issue a statement later Monday. Exxon began shipping the first tankers of Guyanese oil this year and the off-

shore fields are estimated to contain more than 8 billion barrels, one of the world's largest reserves. The revenue is expected to transform the finances of Guyana by generating an estimated \$168 billion over the life of the project, 120 times the country's annual budget.

Global Witness said it had found no evidence of corruption in Guyana's 2016 deal with Exxon, but called for closer scrutiny of the relationship between Natural Resources Minister Raphael Trotman and Nigel Hughes, who has worked as a lawyer for Exxon. Trotman and Hughes are leaders of a Guyanese

political party, Alliance for Change.

"The relationship between Trotman, Hughes, and Exxon should be investigated to determine the existence or extent of any conflict of interest," the report said.

Neither man could immediately be reached for comment on the report. Guyana is a relatively poor nation of about 740,000 people.

It holds general elections on March 2 and the opposition People's Progressive Party has issued some statements indicating that it will seek to renegotiate oil concessions, although the specifics of its position remain unclear. □



## LOCAL



## 'Aruba Doet' does it again

**ORANJESTAD —** This March, on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th, Aruba's biggest annual volunteer initiative will once again unite our beloved island for its eighth edition of ARUBA DOET. From the bustling capital Oranjestad to the unassuming town of San Nicolas, thousands of participants will join forces to put the 'ONE' back in our 'HAPPY ISLAND'. People from around the island and all over the world roll up their sleeves to provide communal buildings with a crisp paint coat, collect trash from our natural treasures, dance around with seniors and many other jobs. Last year, over 3300 volunteers put a smile on the face of Aruba, fulfilling no less than 165 jobs. This year, with over 190 projects, the goal is to obtain a record number by contributing to the largest volunteer event of the Caribbean and you can make it happen!

### The noble heart of the organization

When the Dutch Oranje Fonds initiated ARUBA

DOET (Aruba does) in 2013, nobody dared to dream how great it would turn out in its following eight years. As part of a greater project, the project was set out on the six Dutch islands, of which Aruba quickly grew to become a large and successful contributor. The project Aruba Doet, together with CEDE Aruba, is highly dependent from the help of its associated partners and supporting organizations. Of course, the most important ones that keep up the vessels of ARUBA DOET and pumping are its volunteers. With thousands of people pitching in at hundreds of jobs every year, Aruba has stated its reputation as a noble heart of the Caribbean and showing how significant actively engaged citizens can be for the community as a whole.

### What 'Aruba Doet' does

Being the most revisited island of the Caribbean, the annual flux of tourism and the ever-growing population make a great impact on our tiny island. This is pri-



marily visible in the sparse, yet beautiful nature that Aruba boasts. As a volunteer, you can help make our sandy shores white again during a beach clean-up, participate in a preservation program of the Spanish Lagoon or help out at an animal shelter. Outside the flashy shopping centers and holiday resorts, a large part of the island still lives in more faded conditions. These communities rely on the help of others, from laying structures of new constructions to filling wall cracks and repainting old buildings such of schools, social centers or gardening for the hospice.

Aside from environmental and community work, there are many leisurely options

that ARUBA DOET sets up. Think of charring the coals on a festive BBQ party for the visually impaired, get physical during sports activities with the elderly or stimulating youngsters to express themselves through art. Whether you're good at constructing and refurbishing, an artistic prodigy, environmentally engaged or even know your way around social media, there's a right job to fit every helping hand.

### Working for the greater good

With the past years in mind, Aruba has proven to care about its community. The main perspective of ARUBA DOET has always been to connect the community with the social organiza-

tions of volunteer work. By doing this we connect young and old people with different cultural backgrounds and those who have more to share with those in need. Thanks to the high-spirited volunteers and the generosity of participating companies and organizations, every year actively has covered the island with a fresh layer of triumph. In 2020, your help is needed to keep up the wonderful work as we have done in the past and be part of a family that will contribute to the wellbeing of our dushi Aruba.

Find out more about the organization or sign up as a volunteer for a project on [www.arubadoet.com](http://www.arubadoet.com)! □







Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Native succulents flora of Aruba

Episode 55- LV

**ORANJESTAD** — The Aruban nature has been devastated of its lush vegetation since the arrival of the colonial era. However its arid landscape is home to an extraordinarily diverse range of native vegetation or flora. Native vegetation refers to any naturally occurring local plant species which are indigenous to the island. Our today's episode will be all about succulents since our native succulents belongs to a very important segment of or ecological, social and cultural system.



2-A cactus covered hill side close to Ayo rock formation.

Aruba's flora provides the unique landscapes of the region, providing habitat for an arange of native animals, create wildlife corridors, provide protection from wind and water erosion by holding the soil together after a rain shower and reduces the greenhouse effect.

Our island vegetation shapes local culture and national identity, and so in order to protect it we want and hope to allow future generations to enjoy their unique environment. The thorny brushes, trees and cacti are abundant, though not in large numbers of species. The cacti grows in the wild. Their seeds are dispersed by the wind and fauna, specially birds and bats that feast on their delicious fruits.

There are three types of candelabra or organ pipe cacti species that dominate the landscape of the island. *Stenocereus griseus*, *Cereus repandus* and *Pilosocereus lanuginosus*. *Stenocereus griseus* grows straight up and branches out close to the ground; its thorns make up neat rows of rosettes.

*Cereus repandus*, known locally as Breba, is the largest of the three cacti

species and looks more like a tree as it branches out further from the ground; its thorns form dense rows that stick out in all directions.

*Pilosocereus lanuginosus*, known locally as Cadushi di Plushi, has long white hairy spines and yellow prickles on the top of its branches.

The cacti have a very important ecological role: their fruits and flowers, which bloom only at night, provide critical food resources for a variety of the islands' bats, birds and reptiles.

There are also two varieties of melon cactus four *Opuntia*'s or tuna and one *Acanthocereus* what Arubans calls Cushicuri or Cadushi di Colebra. Cadushi di Colebra means Snake Cactus. There is also a cactus type that has leaves known as *Pereskia guamacho* which locals call Asufro phosphorus.

Furthermore there are about eight types of *Agave* also a few *Bromeliads* and a great variety of *xenophiles*.

The cactus tree has been used to make fences in order to separate land plots. They are also eaten as a vegetable in soups or stew.

Continued on Page 15



1- A yellow thorn Melocactus or bushi.



3-Succulents inspired Art work



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## Native succulents flora of Aruba

Episode 55- LV

Continued from Page 14

Their delicious fruit are enjoyed by man and animals. Its dead wood was recycled into essentials such as kitchen utensils, building materials, for the making of furniture, mostly in the assemblies of chairs.

Aruba is scarce in resources, but locals always knew how to use everything in its typical survival mode. The best known or most famous succulent of the island is not really a local plant. This plant was introduced to the island in order to foment cultivation and create new sources of income for the islanders, and yes you guessed it, it is the Aloe. This super plant has been actually imported from Barbados where it was doing good and started to bring in some extra income. This plant was also imported from another island called Socotra, which

is located between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea in the Indian Ocean. Well, the Aloe did really bring wealth for those who had invested in this wonder plant. The Aruba Aloe did become an important ingredient of many pharmaceutical skin products used as protection against the sun and chemotherapeutic burns. It can also be found in Laxatives, consumed to treat constipation and detoxification.

To immerse in what Aruba is all about. Its people, its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session which has been entertaining curious, scientist and bohemians for decades. Mail us at [etnianaativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianaativa03@gmail.com) to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. □



4-Succulents inspired Art work



## Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino Named Winner in 2020 WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards®

**ORANJESTAD** — Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino was announced winner of the 2020 WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards®, an accolade earned annually by the top wedding professionals across the board in quality, service, responsiveness, and professionalism, as reviewed by couples on WeddingWire.

Two much-appreciated resort Team Members were presented with the honor, Lisa Dammerman & Nayla Geerman, for the third consecutive year. They received the award outshining many other wedding industry professionals in 14 countries, including the US, Canada, Spain, Italy, France, Mexico, Brazil and India.

Both Lisa and Nayla, regularly make all the difference for couples about to tie the knot in the tropics. Their specialty? Stress reduction, by



dealing with vendors and navigating the decor and catering fields effortlessly to produce seamless, true dream functions in Aruba, at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino.

A leader in the global wedding planning industry,

WeddingWire continues its celebration of local wedding vendors with the announcement of its twelfth annual WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards® winners.

To determine these winning wedding profession-

als, WeddingWire analyzed reviews across more than 20 service categories, from venues and caterers to florists and photographers to find the most highly rated vendors of the year. The winners exhibit superior qualities when interacting with the millions of con-

sumers who turn to WeddingWire to help ease their wedding planning process, each month.

Wedding professionals who win WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards® are members of WeddingPro, the leading B2B wedding brand. It is the largest marketplace and community for wedding professionals with more than 13 million visitors who are planning weddings on WeddingWire and The Knot, every month. Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino is honored to count the top trusted wedding professionals on its team, helping couples pull their special day off, in their own personalized style. For more information about Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, please visit WeddingWire. To learn more about the WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards®, please visit [www.weddingwire.com/couples-choiceawards](http://www.weddingwire.com/couples-choiceawards). □

## It's a Divi thing

**EAGLE BEACH** — Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors and Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were **John & Carol Colella**, **John & Paula Prucknicki** as well as **James & Heather Garabedian** as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Emerald Ambassador certificate went to Helen Smith. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively. It is incredibly beautiful to see that Aruba has so



many loyal visitors, and we hope to see them for many

more years to come.

ily, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to Aruba.

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them. These honorees not only fell in-love with the island, but also brought fam-

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi-Tamarijn and the Divi-All-Inclusive Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □





# SPORTS



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell poses with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after a news conference for the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020, in Miami.

Associated Press

## Super Bowl betting brings big business to sports books

By WAYNE PARRY  
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— Business was brisk at sports books around the country on Super Bowl Sunday, with customers risking money on everything from the coin toss at the start of the game, to the color of the Gatorade dumped on the winning coach, Kansas City's Andy Reid, at the end of it.

The Kansas City Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49ers 31-20 in a game that was forecast to be among the most heavily wagered-on championship games ever.

Revenue reports began trickling in Monday evening, including the \$54.2 million wagered by gamblers in New Jersey, the state whose U.S. Supreme Court victory in 2018 cleared the way for the expansion of legal sports betting to many parts of the country.

Continued on page 20

# Super Rally



## Mahomes, Chiefs win NFL title with late surge

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes holds the Vince Lombardi trophy, after his team won the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla. The Chiefs' defeated the San Francisco 49ers 31-20.

Associated Press  
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Switzerland's Roger Federer speaks during a press conference following his semifinal loss to Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

## Federer to play in South Africa, where his mother was born

**MELBOURNE, Australia**

**(AP)** — Roger Federer shakes his head and sounds a bit embarrassed when he's asked why he's never played a tennis match in South Africa until now.

It is, after all, where his mother was born.

"I don't know what took me so long, to be quite honest," the 20-time Grand Slam champion said. "I said, 'It's not possible that I'm on the tour for 20 years, I've become the player that I have been, and I've never played in South Africa. It's just not OK.' I couldn't live with myself if that happened."

Federer, a 38-year-old from Switzerland, is planning to finally fill that gap on his rather full resume on Friday, when he and his longtime rival, Rafael Nadal, are scheduled to play an exhibition match in Cape Town.

"You know how it is. Life on tour sometimes is what it is. I couldn't be more excited now that it's actually really happening. I hope I'm going to be really fine to play. I believe I am, but we'll see," Federer said after losing in the semifinals at the Australian Open, where his movement was hampered by a painful groin muscle.

"Also, that Rafa is willing to

do it is exciting, of course, to say the least. I know my parents are very happy, very proud, as well. I'm sure it's going to be very, very special for me on many levels to play there." The hope is to generate more than \$1 million for the Roger Federer Foundation, which supports early childhood education in six African countries and Switzerland. Its CEO, Janine Haendel, said the foundation already has reached more than a million children in its history.

"It will be such an emotional moment for him," Haendel said about the event in South Africa, which also is slated to include an appearance by Bill Gates. "For him, it's really a dream. It's been a project for quite some time."

But this wasn't just about raising — or making — money, Federer said. He wanted to make sure the event was accessible for spectators, so 10,000 tickets were available for about \$11 each. The aim is an attendance of 50,000, which would be the largest crowd on record for a tennis match.

That goes along with part of Federer's interest in burnishing his legacy — and that of the game he plays. □



Serbia's Novak Djokovic kisses his trophy, the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup, during a photo shoot at Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens following his win over Austria's Dominic Thiem in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships, in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Associated Press

## Djokovic returns to No. 1; Kenin top American woman at No. 7

**By HOWARD FENDRICH**  
**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)**

— Novak Djokovic returned to No. 1 in the ATP rankings Monday after winning his eighth Australian Open title, while Sofia Kenin's first Grand Slam trophy boosted her to a career-high No. 7 — and made her the leading American — on the WTA list.

Djokovic's 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Dominic Thiem in the final at Melbourne Park on Sunday allowed the 32-year-old from Serbia to rise one spot and move back ahead of Rafael Nadal.

Nadal had overtaken Djokovic in November and, at age 33, became the oldest year-end No. 1. But Nadal lost ranking points by getting eliminated in the Australian Open quarterfinals, by Thiem, one year after being the runner-up to Djokovic.

This is Djokovic's 276th week leading the ATP, the third-most in the history of the computerized rankings, which began in the 1970s. Roger Federer holds the record of 310, followed by Pete Sampras with 286.

If Djokovic can stay at No. 1 until the first week of October, he will surpass Federer.

"That's one of the two biggest goals, for sure," said Djokovic, who defeated Federer in the semifinals at Melbourne Park. "I mean, there is no secret in that."

The other? Catching up to Federer and Nadal for most major championships. Federer leads the way with 20, with Nadal at 19 and Djokovic now at 17.

In the rankings, Nadal is No. 2, Federer remained at No. 3, and Thiem went up one place to No. 4, with U.S. Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev sliding to No. 5. The highest jump in the top 100 was by Tennys Sandgren, an American who went from 100th to 44th thanks to getting to the quarterfinals. He pushed Federer to the brink in that round, holding seven match points, but was unable to convert one.

The 21-year-old Kenin, who lives in Florida, became the youngest woman to win the Australian Open since Maria Sharapova in 2008 by coming back to beat two-time major champion Garbiñe Muguruza 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in Saturday's final.

Kenin rose eight spots and is the youngest American to make her debut in the top 10 since Serena Wil-

iams in 1999.

With Williams staying at No. 9 after her third-round loss in Australia, Kenin moved past a player she considers an idol.

"It hasn't sunk in yet. Everything is just still a blur for me. I just can't believe what happened. Yeah, it's just great. I feel like I'm doing some great things for American tennis. It's such an honor," Kenin said Saturday.

"I've watched Serena. I've been following her, all the Slams she's been winning. It's a special feeling just to be ahead of her. I'm just super excited. I can't wait to compete, be on the same team with her in Fed Cup." The United States hosts Latvia at Everett, Washington, in the team competition next weekend.

Ash Barty held onto No. 1 in the WTA rankings after losing to Kenin in the semifinals. Simona Halep, ousted at that stage by Muguruza, went from No. 3 to No. 2, switching places with Karolina Pliskova.

Muguruza, who was unseeded at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in six years, returned to the top 20, going from No. 32 to No. 16. □



# After Super Bowl win, Chiefs already eyeing repeat next year

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

**MIAMI (AP)** — It took the Chiefs five full decades to bring the Lombardi Trophy back to Kansas City.

They don't intend to wait that long again.

With confetti still swirling and their thrilling Super Bowl triumph over the San Francisco 49ers mere minutes old, most of the Chiefs were already talking about next season. They got a taste of reaching the AFC title game last season and it drove them to make it back this season, and now that they've had a taste of winning the championship, the organization's mindset is quite simple: Why stop at just one?

"Next year we're coming back," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said. "We're coming back for a repeat."

There's plenty of reasons to believe they can do it. The Chiefs will return just about every key piece that delivered the city its first championship in 50 years, including Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes, breakout star Damien Williams and the core of their rebuilt defense, along with a coaching staff that's gotten plenty of interest for head coaching jobs elsewhere.

So perhaps it was no surprise that most Las Vegas sports books already have installed the Chiefs as 6-to-1 favorites to win the Super Bowl next season. The Baltimore Ravens and NFC champion Niners were close behind.

"I'm really excited about it. You get one, you want to get another," said Andy Reid, who finally got to bask in his first Super Bowl championship after 21

years of coaching. "But we've got to backpedal a minute and enjoy this one, and then we'll get busy on the next one."

There certainly will be plenty of time to celebrate. The Chiefs wrapped up some media obligations in Miami on Monday, then were to head back to Kansas City, where an entire city was prepping for a victory parade Wednesday.

Not long after that, though, expect Reid and general manager Brett Veach to get down to business.

The Chiefs are likely to make Mahomes the NFL's highest-paid player this off-season, the first opportunity he will have to sign a contract extension. The Chiefs also must decide what to do with Jones, one of the league's premier defensive linemen, who is eligible for free agency but has expressed his desire to remain with the team on a long-term deal.

"Why wouldn't I want to be here?" he asked. "We have a chance to be a dynasty." The Chiefs also had a number of role players whose deals are expiring, and bringing them back or unearthing replacements will be crucial during free agency. Among them are defensive linemen Terrell Suggs, Emmanuel Ogbah and Xavier Williams, wide receiver Demarcus Robinson, and cornerbacks Bashaud Breeland and Kendall Fuller.

Another question facing the Chiefs: What will they do with Sammy Watkins, who proved his worth with a massive playoff run capped by five catches for 98 yards in the Super Bowl. He is due to count \$21 mil-



**Kansas City Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt, right, hands the trophy to head coach Andy Reid after the chiefs defeated the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla.**

Associated Press

lion against the salary cap next year, so the Chiefs are likely to ask him to take a pay cut or restructure his contract or be forced to release him.

"If we keep going the way we're going, the sky is the limit for this team," said Watkins, who contradicted reports he might even sit out next season by insisting he'd return. "Why not? We'll come back and win next year."

But even with all those holes to fill, the Chiefs are still in enviable shape. They have arguably the league's best quarterback and one of its most electrifying pass-catchers in Tyreek Hill. They have one of its premier tight ends in Travis Kelce and a running back in Damien Williams, who gashed the 49ers for 104 yards rushing with TDs on the ground and through the air.

On defense, they have elite pass rusher Frank Clark and safety Tyrann Mathieu — the prize acquisitions last offseason who came up big in the Super Bowl — signed to contracts that will keep them in Kansas City at least two more years.

"It will be important to keep a couple of those other guys and obviously continue to get better, whether that's through the draft or free agency," Mathieu said. "The most important thing is our core is intact. We've got a hell of a football team, so we are looking forward to next season already."

There have been seven franchises that have won back-to-back Super Bowls, including the Pittsburgh Steelers, who did the trick twice in the 1970s. That now becomes the goal for a team that sees a window of dominance opening in

the AFC, where the Chiefs and Ravens already have begun to replace the New England Patriots as the gold standard.

"I think as long as we keep the people that we have in this organization on this team, with the coach that we have, I think we have a chance to be good year-in and year-out," Mahomes said. "It's not going to be easy. We're sitting here right now, and I know that going back, we're going to have next year to play a lot of great football teams. There's a lot of great teams in this league, so you understand that. But at the same time, just try to get better every year."

Not just to reach the pinnacle of the game. At long last, the Chiefs finally have accomplished that.

The task facing them now is staying there. □

# Tight end Vernon Davis retires after 14 NFL seasons

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Vernon Davis announced his retirement after 14 NFL seasons with the San Francisco 49ers, Denver Broncos and Washington Redskins that included winning a Super Bowl title.

The 36-year-old said Monday he decided to retire because of the wear and

year on his body. Davis said he's walking away from football while his body is still healthy enough to pursue other opportunities.

"I look forward to the next favorite phase of my professional career, which will include opportunities in business and television," Davis said in a statement.

"I will hold football in my heart forever, and I am grateful for the opportunities I've had while playing this great game."

A 6-foot-3, 248-pound tight end, Davis stayed in the NFL and remained productive so long in part because of his meticulous physical conditioning. He said dur-

ing his final pro seasons that he trained year-round like some players do during the season and credited that for staying on the field.

Davis was limited to four games during the 2019 season because of a concussion. Before that, he caught 583 passes for 7,562 yards and 63 touchdowns in 198

regular-season games and had seven touchdowns in 11 playoff games.

San Francisco selected Davis sixth overall in the 2006 draft out of Maryland. He spent more than nine seasons with the 49ers before a midseason trade in 2015 to the Broncos, with whom he won the Super Bowl. □



# Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!*



Oranjestad- Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby Junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant. Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit [www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com](http://www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com) or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



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## Continued from page 17

That total surpassed the \$34.8 million New Jersey gamblers bet on the Super Bowl last year.

New Jersey's 10 retail sports books and 19 sports wagering mobile applications lost \$4.28 million, for a negative hold percentage of 7.8% Ron Baumann, regional president for Caesars Entertainment, which owns three Atlantic City casinos, said its sports books at Bally's and Harrah's were jammed.

"We exceeded what we thought we would do by far," he said. "We sold out every seat we had, every inch of seating."

The two books handled over 10,000 bets. And the increased foot traffic also gave the casinos a measurable boost in table games and slot revenue, and food and beverage sales, though Baumann would not reveal exact figures for either.

Nevada, the country's largest sports betting market, said it will not release its figures until Tuesday because



In this Jan. 29, 2020 photo, a man makes a bet on the upcoming Super Bowl at Bally's casino in Atlantic City, N.J.

Associated Press

one of its licensees had technical problems while compiling data. But MGM Resorts and Caesars Entertainment both reported multimillion-dollar wins from the game.

Last year, Nevada sports books took in \$146 million worth of bets on the Super Bowl, down from \$158 million a year earlier.

Mississippi regulators reported taking in \$6.7 million worth of bets on this year's game, but did not immedi-

ately calculate how much of that was paid out to customers who made winning bets.

In Rhode Island, the beloved New England Patriots were not in the Super Bowl for the first time in four years, and gamblers showed less interest in betting on someone other than Tom Brady. The \$5.5 million wagered was about 84% of the \$6.5 million wagered last year when the Patriots beat the Los Angeles Rams.

Rhode Island's sports books had a hold percentage of 14.6%, or twice the level of what Paul Grimaldi, a spokesman for the state revenue department, termed "good." That worked out to a hold of about \$805,000 for the sports books, about half of which goes to the state. Last year when the Pats won, the sports books lost \$2.3 million.

Elsewhere in New England, New Hampshire gamblers bet more than \$2.3 million on the Super Bowl; the state only began sports betting on Dec. 30.

"We are extremely pleased with the results from our first Super Bowl and our first month overall of sports betting, and we look forward to continuing to build on this success as we engage more and more players," said Charlie McIntyre, executive director of the New Hampshire Lottery.

Mattias Stetz, chief operating officer of Rush Street Interactive, which operates the PlaySugarHouse.com and BetRivers.com online betting sites, said the Super

Bowl generated 10 times the amount of bets that his company sees from a regular-season NFL game.

Delaware saw \$2.1 million in bets and a hold of \$229,000. Oregon took in nearly \$2 million in bets and kept about \$150,000.

Pennsylvania said it would release its Super Bowl betting numbers on Tuesday and several other states, including New York and New Mexico, said they do not calculate Super Bowl bets separately.

For those keeping score, the Gatorade dumped on Reid at the end of the game was orange, even though purple had been a pregame betting favorite. □

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# Harden's 40 leads Rockets over Pelicans 117-109

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
HOUSTON (AP) —

Houston coach Mike D'Antoni has been around James Harden long enough to know that he'd eventually snap out of his shooting slump.

But he admitted on Sunday that he was quite relieved to see it happen sooner rather than later.

"I can go home and go to bed now," D'Antoni said. "Before I wouldn't be sleeping much."

Harden had 40 points and came an assist shy of a triple-double to lead the Rockets to a 117-109 win over the New Orleans Pelicans.

Rookie sensation Zion Williamson had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Pelicans, whose three-game winning streak was snapped.

Harden, who added 10 rebounds and nine assists, poured in 26 points in the first half and cooled down in the second half. But he still had his second straight game with 30 or more points after failing to score 30 in his previous four games as he worked through a shooting slump.

"James is James, so we can put all that other stuff the rest because he seems like he's back," D'Antoni said.

Jrue Holiday had three points before Josh Hart made one of two free throws to allow New Orleans to cut the lead to

110-107 with about two minutes to go.

Eric Gordon added a basket seconds after that and Danuel House hit a 3-pointer to make it 115-107 with less than a minute left to seal the victory.

Brandon Ingram had 28 points and 12 rebounds for New Orleans.

Houston went with its small lineup again as center Clint Capela missed his second straight game and the third in four games with a bruised right heel. Russell Westbrook added 22 points for the Rockets and Ben McLemore had 22 off the bench.

Harden was more interested in talking about Houston's defense down the stretch than his shooting.

"We did a pretty good and solid job the entire game," he said. "The fourth quarter was the time to lock it down and we did that to win the game."

Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry was unhappy that his team didn't get the ball to Williamson for long stretches in the fourth quarter.

"Zion can't go four minutes without touching the basketball and that's on me," he said. "That's something that I've got to make sure that that will never happen again."

Gentry was asked if the failure to get the ball to him was a product of the team not being used to playing with the rookie who has

only played six games.

"No," he said. "You've got to get him the damn basketball ... if not there's no reason for us to have him in the game. And that's not going to happen either."

Williamson wasn't upset about his lack of touches in the fourth quarter.

"I trust my teammates," he said. "They felt like what they did was the right play and I don't fault them with anything they did."

The Pelicans led by one to start the fourth and scored the first four points of the quarter to make it 97-92. But Harden made a 3-pointer before finding Westbrook for a layup to tie it up with about 10 minutes left.

The Pelicans were up by two points later in the fourth when House made a 3-pointer to put Houston up 102-101. Both teams missed numerous shots after that and Houston finally got back on the board with a layup by House with about seven minutes to go. Harden made a layup after that to push Houston's lead to 106-101.

Hart made the first field goal for New Orleans in more four minutes after that to cut the lead to 106-103 midway through the fourth.

The teams combined to miss nine shots over the next 2 ½ minutes before Harden added two points on free throws that pushed Houston's run to 9-2 and made



New Orleans Pelicans guards Josh Hart (3) and Jrue Holiday, top, vie with Houston Rockets guard James Harden, center, for a rebound during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Houston.

Associated Press

it 108-103 with 3 ½ minutes to go.

This game was close throughout and Houston cut the lead to 93-92 entering the fourth quarter after McLemore made two of three free throws after he was fouled on a 3-pointer. TIP-INS

Pelicans: New Orleans made 10 of 33 3-pointers. ... Hart had 16 points and 10 rebounds. ... The Pelicans scored just 16 points in the fourth quarter. ... Lonzo Ball scored 10 points with 11 rebounds and nine assists.

Rockets: Coach Mike D'Antoni said Capela is day to day with his injury and that he won't play until he is pain free. ... Houston made 16 of 51 3-point attempts. ... House had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

ZION'S START Sunday was the fourth 20-point game for Williamson. He's the first rookie to score 20 or more points four times in his first six games since Damian Lillard did it in the 2012-13 season. Before Lillard, the last one to do it was Kevin Durant in 2007-08. □

## Skier Mikaela Shiffrin announces death of her father at 65

By The Associated Press

Two-time Olympic champion skier Mikaela Shiffrin says her father, Jeff, has died. He was 65.

"My family is heartbroken beyond comprehension about the unexpected passing of my kindhearted, loving, caring, patient, wonderful father," the family posted on Shiffrin's social media accounts.

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard

federation said Shiffrin traveled home from Europe to Colorado on Sunday to be with her father and family at a hospital, where he died. No further details were given.

Jeff Shiffrin, an anesthesiologist in Vail, Colorado, and a former ski racer at Dartmouth, often attended his daughter's races on the World Cup circuit and at major championships with

his wife, Eileen. Jeff Shiffrin would trek on the hill with his camera around his neck to take photos of his daughter.

"He taught us so many valuable lessons but above everything else, he taught us the golden rule: be nice, think first," Shiffrin wrote. "This is something I will carry with me forever. He was the firm foundation of our family and we miss him terribly." □



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin stands in the fish Rea after winning an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G, in Bansko, Bulgaria, Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020.

Associated Press



# Eichel vows 'wheels won't fall off' Sabres as in past years

By JOHN WAWROW

AP Hockey Writer

**BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)** — Sa-

bres captain Jack Eichel is doing everything within his power to prevent his team from falling into an all-too-familiar late-season rut.

The fifth-year player is enjoying a breakout season with a career-best 31 goals — seven of them game-winners — as he displays on-ice consistency.

And then there are continuing signs that the 23-year-old is maturing into a well-rounded leader.

Eichel might still show an occasional outburst of frustration, such as when he smashed his stick over Buffalo's net in the closing moments of a 3-1 loss to Montreal last week. What's been more apparent is the self-restraint Eichel has displayed in not allowing his emotions to roil into the following day.

"The biggest thing I think is being able to regroup," he said, before pausing to gather his thoughts a day after the loss to Montreal.

"It's not like last year," Eichel said, referring to how Buffalo unraveled by turning a 17-6-2 start into a 33-39-10 finish that led to coach Phil Housley's firing.

"We've been through these times where we take a couple of hits at this time of year ... and then all of a sudden the wheels fall off," he added. "That's not happening here."

The following day, Eichel backed up his words by scoring 36 seconds into overtime of a 2-1 victory over Columbus.

The win might mean little in the big picture for a Sa-



**Buffalo Sabres forward Jack Eichel (9) and Ottawa Senators defenseman Mike Reilly (5) compete for the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2020, in Buffalo, N.Y.**  
Associated Press

bres team that at 23-22-7 opened this week 10 points out of contention and is in jeopardy of extending the NHL's longest active playoff drought to a ninth year.

And yet, the victory over Columbus was significant in how it briefly silenced a disgruntled fan base voicing its displeasure over a team displaying modest hints of development under its fifth coach and third general manager in six years.

Goalie Carter Hutton acknowledged the importance of the win by saying: "Everyone knows what's going on. We're not stupid. The outside, and the pressure that comes with the situation we're in: So it was a big answer today."

The Sabres spent much of last week careening toward a state of crisis after coming out of a 10-day break with home losses to

Ottawa and Montreal.

The disgruntled masses gained a voice when 32-year-old fan Duane Steinel phoned into the Sabres' flagship station, WGR-Radio, to deliver a three-plus-minute tirade on the franchise's shortcomings. His criticisms ranged from questioning the Sabres' inconsistencies to citing issues beyond the team's control, such as an inability to print out-of-stock jerseys as part of the franchise's silver anniversary celebrations.

The clip went viral on social media and was picked up by radio stations in Canada.

"I just want (the Sabres) to care. I just want them to matter again," Steinel told The Associated Press on Monday, saying his frustrations were prompted by Buffalo's 5-2 loss to Ottawa. "It was depressing. I just

looked around in the arena, even when the game was tied, there was nobody cheering. The atmosphere was so bad, and it's been like this for so long, man."

Two nights later, the Sabres were booed off the ice against Montreal.

First-year coach Ralph Krueger can feel the fans' pain, even though he's trying to block it out so as not to distract from his message to the team.

"It's not that we're sticking our heads in the sand, and whatever noise is out there is out there," Krueger said.

"But I really don't let it into my head or my space because I need to work with this group on a daily basis as constructively as possible," he added. "Do fans deserve to boo us after games like Ottawa and Montreal? Yes. Do we need to take that? Yes. And it

should fuel us to continue to work in the right direction."

Buffalo's season has been a series of peaks and valleys, with the Sabres following a 9-2-1 start with a 1-7-2 slump, before going 13-13-4 since.

Krueger blames the inconsistencies on the team failing to stick to fundamentals.

"Sometimes it takes pain like we're feeling right now to implement those (fundamentals) to become normal for us, and they aren't yet," Krueger said.

Eichel has been the Sabres' one consistent bright spot and is getting mentioned as an NHL MVP candidate despite Buffalo's struggles. He's fourth in the league in scoring and tied for seventh in points.

Eichel has been held without a point 12 times this season, and just three times in his past 33 games — a stretch in which he's combined for 23 goals and 23 assists.

Difficult as it might sound, Eichel insisted he can do more.

"Everyone needs to kind of look in the mirror and expect more out of themselves going forward. That includes me," he said.

Though hopeful about the future, Eichel acknowledged the team's inconsistencies have worn on him.

"Wouldn't it wear on you?" Eichel said. "Yeah, I think it wears on everyone. But that's my job as a hockey player, as a leader, as a person, to be able to find a way to regroup every day, come to work and get better." □



**Carolina Hurricanes right wing Andrei Svechnikov (37), of Russia, tries to score while Vancouver Canucks defenseman Tyler Myers (57) and goaltender Thatcher Demko (35) defend during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Raleigh, N.C., Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020.**

Associated Press

## Crosby gets better of Ovechkin as Penguins beat Capitals

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Patric Hornqvist scored the day after undergoing a dental procedure, Matt Murray made 29 saves and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Washington Capitals 4-3 Sunday in the 50th regular-season game between Sidney Crosby and

Alex Ovechkin.

Crosby assisted on Dominik Simon's goal to give him 12 points in seven games since returning from injury. Ovechkin was held off the score sheet and remained at 37 goals this season and 695 for his career.

By winning in regulation, the Penguins crept within

four points of the Metropolitan Division-leading Capitals with an extra game left to play.

Pittsburgh made life difficult on rookie Capitals goaltender Ilya Samsonov, who allowed goals to Sam Lafferty, Hornqvist, Simon and Brandon Tanev on 33 shots. □



# Change looming as NASCAR season arrives with Daytona 500

By JENNA FRYER AP  
Auto Racing Writer  
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— The sky isn't falling — or at least it doesn't feel that way — as NASCAR heads into the first of two seasons full of change.

In the three months since Kyle Busch won his second championship, NASCAR took its awards ceremony to Nashville, Tennessee, and was eagerly embraced. The Hall of Fame ceremony last month focused on Joe Gibbs and his elite organization, which won a record 19 of 36 races last season as Busch earned Joe Gibbs Racing its fifth Cup Series title.

Drivers will return to the track at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday and the season-opening Daytona 500 is Feb. 16.

"We're coming off of a very good year, I felt like last year, where we're really getting some momentum back," NASCAR Chairman Jim France said. "It's exciting now, going into this coming year."

Since replacing his nephew as head of the family business in August 2018, Jim France has been a steady guide for a series trying to stop a slide in every important metric. Attendance and television ratings may have finally bottomed out, but sponsorship dollars are as hard to find as ever and cost-cutting is a major priority across the entire industry.

So the last full season for seven-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson is also the last year for the current race car. The "Next Gen" car is on schedule to race in 2021, and the project is expected to trim millions from team budgets because its parts and pieces will require a smaller workforce.

Even before that, NASCAR for 2020 made long overdue tweaks to the schedule with a few seismic shifts: Phoenix will host the championship-deciding finale in November, Martinsville Speedway got both a night race and the penultimate playoff race, Daytona gave up its traditional July



In this Nov. 17, 2019, file photo, Kyle Busch, center, holds up his trophy in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto racing season championship at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Fla.

Associated Press

Fourth weekend to Indianapolis Motor Speedway (and will now host the final regular season race) and Pocono Raceway is going to host two Cup Series races in one weekend.

NASCAR was able to make those changes despite five-year contracts that had given track owners stability. But fans have complained about the stale schedule and 2020 was NASCAR's first chance to make even small changes.

The contracts expire this year, and NASCAR will essentially have the ability to reconfigure the entire schedule for 2021. NASCAR, a private company owned by the France family, last year swallowed International Speedway Corp., giving Jim and his niece, Lesa France Kennedy, the power to do just about anything they want.

"It makes a big difference," Jim France said of the merger. "It gives us an opportunity to respond quicker to the changing environment out here with the economy and all the things that are going on that impact motorsports. It was a major big step that we needed to make probably

for quite a while."

NASCAR this year will debut a new sponsorship model in which the elite Cup Series will not have a single entitlement partner. The Winston Cup/Nextel Cup/Sprint Cup/Monster Energy Cup will be just the Cup Series going forward, with "premier partners" Busch Beer, Coca-Cola, GEICO and Xfinity taking on large roles. As Jim France and Lesa France have found their footing, the stock car series has shown flexibility, too: After acknowledging the rules package was a bust at short tracks and road courses, NASCAR did an about face and made changes for those specific venues.

Adapting to it all will be Johnson, who said this year will be his last as a full-time NASCAR driver. His 19th season will be his last attempt to win a record eighth Cup championship, but Johnson said he has shaken off the pressure of chasing Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt and plans to enjoy his time in the No. 48 Chevrolet.

"I've been able to have some clarity and to really understand it on a deeper

level," said Johnson, now 44. "One thing that I've come to grips with and I'm enjoying letting go of is: I feel like I've been a bit out of character and a bit focused on a number, a statistic — and I've never in my life been that way. I've never raced that way."

"I'm out there one final time," he added. "This is just one final time, and it feels so good to be able to let go of that chasing part."

The chase will be on for drivers hoping to fill Johnson's seat at Hendrick Motorsports. Alex Bowman is also in a contract year driving Rick Hendrick's No. 88, meaning two top seats at an elite team are in rare play.

Among the drivers in a crowded free agent pool are former series champion Brad Keselowski and teammate Ryan Blaney, who were both involved in a major Team Penske off-season shakeup. Looking for a spark after failing to get any of its cars into the championship-deciding finale, Penske swapped the crew chiefs for all three of its drivers, two of whom are in contract years.

"I personally needed to be

challenged," Keselowski said. "A lot of us were pretty comfortable and this certainly removes any feeling of comfort."

Kyle Larson is considered the top free agent in this year's pool and he likely has three options: He can stay with Chip Ganassi, who lets him race sprint cars; move to Stewart-Haas Racing and drive for Tony Stewart, who may be even more lenient than Ganassi has been; or he can scale back the extracurricular racing and drive for Hendrick.

Larson has won just six career Cup races, but is considered to be the best of NASCAR's next generation and is only 27. His courtship and ultimate decision will likely impact all other major driver negotiations.

It's a full house at Joe Gibbs Racing, which put three Toyotas in the final four last season and returns its entire lineup, with Christopher Bell finally earning his promotion to the Cup Series in a satellite ride for Leavine Family Racing. It was the only place to put Larson's sprint car-loving buddy, who was ready for the big leagues but stuck in Gibbs' crowded system.

Bell will be in a race for top Cup rookie alongside two-time Xfinity Series champion Tyler Reddick and Cole Custer. The trio raced each other for the Xfinity title the last two seasons.

The race for the final four slots at Phoenix is wide open, assuming teams figure out how to match Gibbs on the track. Busch hasn't missed a beat and spent a decent part of January in a sports car, making his debut at the prestigious Rolex 24 at Daytona in his own attempt to stay sharp. His push for title No. 3 begins with the Daytona 500, a race he has never won. Busch was second to teammate Denny Hamlin in last year's 1-2-3 Gibbs sweep, and he very much wants to win the race himself.

Busch gets to show what he's got starting Sunday with both an exhibition race and qualifying for the Daytona 500. □

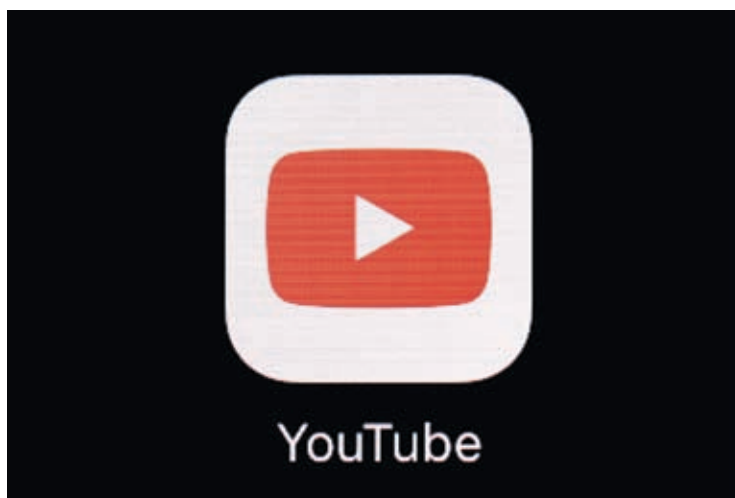


# YouTube: No 'deepfakes' or 'birther' videos in 2020 election

By **MATT O'BRIEN**  
AP Technology Writer

YouTube is making clear there will be no "birtherism" on its platform during this year's U.S. presidential election — a belated response to a type of conspiracy theory more prevalent in the 2012 race.

The Google-owned video service is also reiterating that it won't allow election-related "deepfake" videos and anything that aims to mislead viewers about voting procedures and how to participate in the 2020 census.



This March 20, 2018, file photo shows the YouTube app on an iPad.

Associated Press

to serve in office. That had been policy before, but wasn't made explicit.

The company's announcement comes about nine years after celebrity businessman Donald Trump began to get notice for claiming that Barack Obama, the nation's first African American president, was not born in the United States.

Trump repeatedly voiced citizenship doubts even after Obama produced his long-form birth certificate. Trump only fully backed off

from the idea in the final stages of his 2016 presidential campaign.

YouTube said it will also crack down on any attempts to artificially increase the number of views, likes and comments on videos. It changed its systems for recommending what videos users watch last year in a push to curb harmful misinformation. Twitter and Pinterest also last week outlined their efforts to reduce election misinformation on their platforms. □

YouTube clarified its rules ahead of the Iowa caucus Monday. The company is mostly reiterating content guidelines that it has been putting in place since the last presidential election in 2016.

Its ban on technically manipulated videos of political figures was made apparent last year when YouTube became the first major platform to remove a doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. But the announcement Monday further clarifies that it will take down any election-related videos that are technically altered to mislead people in a way that goes beyond simply taking clips of speech out of context. The company also said it would remove doctored videos that could cause "serious risk of egregious harm" — such as to make it appear that a government official is dead.

Facebook, which last year had resisted early calls to yank the Pelosi video, said in January that it was banning "deepfake" videos, the false but realistic clips created with artificial intelligence and sophisticated tools. Such videos are still fairly rare compared to simpler "cheap fake" manipulations such as were used in the video that altered Pelosi's speech to make it seem like she was slurring her words.

Google also said Monday that it will remove any videos that advance false claims about whether political candidates and elected officials are eligible

## Dating apps leak personal data, Norwegian group says



In this July 5, 2015, file photo, a man uses the dating app Tinder in New Delhi.

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Dating apps including Grindr, OkCupid and Tinder leak personal information to advertising tech companies in possible violation of European data privacy laws, a Norwegian consumer group said in a report Tuesday.

The Norwegian Consumer Council said it found "serious privacy infringements" in its analysis of how shadowy online ad companies track and profile smartphone users.

The council, a government-funded nonprofit group, commissioned cybersecurity company Mnemonic to study 10 Android mobile apps. It found that the apps sent user data to at least 135 different third party services involved in advertising or behavioral

profiling.

"The situation is completely out of control," the council said, urging European regulators to enforce the continent's strict General Data Privacy Regulation, or GDPR. It said the majority of the apps did not present users with legally-compliant consent mechanisms.

The council took action against some of the companies it examined, filing formal complaints with Norway's data protection authority against Grindr, Twitter-owned mobile app advertising platform MoPub and four ad tech companies. Grindr sent data including users' GPS location, age and gender to the other companies, the council said.

Twitter said it disabled Grindr's MoPub account and is

investigating the issue "to understand the sufficiency of Grindr's consent mechanism."

Period tracker app MyDays and virtual makeup app Perfect 365 were also among the apps sharing personal data with ad services, the report said.

Match Group, owner of Tinder and OkCupid, said the company shares information with third parties only when it is "deemed necessary to operate its platform" with third party apps. The company said it considers the practice in line with all European and U.S. regulations. The U.S. doesn't have federal regulation like the GDPR, although some states, notably California, have enacted their own laws. Nine civil rights groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union of California, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, Public Citizen and U.S. PIRG sent a letter to the Federal Trade Commission, Congress and state attorneys general of California, Texas and Oregon asking them to investigate the apps named in the report. "Congress should use the findings of the report as a road map for a new law that ensures that such flagrant violations of privacy found in the EU are not acceptable in the U.S.," the groups said in a statement. □

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# Mall owners among group bidding \$81 million for Forever 21

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**  
AP Business Writer

A consortium of buyers, including mall owners Simon Property Group and Brookfield Property Partners, is bidding \$81 million for Forever 21, the ubiquitous mall staple that filed for bankruptcy protection in September.

Simon and Brookfield are Forever 21's biggest landlords. The other bidder is Authentic Brands Group, which has acquired the licensing rights to other troubled retailers like Barneys New York. In 2016, Simon and mall owner General Growth Properties, which is now owned by Brookfield Property Partners, teamed up to save struggling teen apparel retailer Aeropostale, which was in bankruptcy. Simon's Chairman and CEO David Simon told investors during an earnings call last year that Simon was looking at other potential bankrupt retailers.

Mark Hunter, managing director leading CBRE's mall management and leasing business in the Americas, says that Simon and others are trying to keep occupancy high at their malls. They don't want to trigger a clause that lets other retailers at the shopping center ask for a lower rent or eventually get out of a lease. Still, Simon and others remain "strategic" regarding which retailer to buy.

Forever 21, based in Los Angeles, is a privately held company founded by the Chang family. It joined a rapidly growing list of retailers that have fallen victim to changing shopping behaviors and preferences among teens who have increasingly turned away from malls in favor of online brands, or thrift stores.

Forever 21's bankruptcy marked a dramatic fall for the retailer. The company was founded in 1984 and, along with other fast-

fashion chains like H&M and Zara, rode a wave of popularity among young shoppers that took off in the mid-1990s. It had the market heft to win over customers from traditional stalwarts like Abercrombie & Fitch and American Eagle. Their popularity grew during the Great Recession, when shoppers sought fashion bargains. But Forever 21 went on an aggressive expansion of stores just as shoppers were moving online. It has since closed hundreds of stores globally. As of the bankruptcy filing, it operated about 800 stores worldwide, including more than 500 stores in the U.S. The company said at the time of the filing that it would still operate its e-commerce business, which accounts for 16% of total sales.

Other interested parties have until Feb. 7 to provide a higher offer. If a higher bid is accepted, there's a



In a September 30, 2019 file photo, people walk in front of a Forever 21 clothing store in New York.

Associated Press

breakup fee of \$4.6 million. will face a judge on Feb. The approval for the sale 11.□

# FTC sues to block Harry's sale to Schick owner Edgewell

By **ALEXANDRA OLSON**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Federal antitrust regulators say a proposed merger that would combine old-school shaving company Schick with upstart Harry's would end up costing consumers some skin.

The Federal Trade Commission on Monday sued to block Edgewell Personal Care Co.'s \$1.37 billion acquisition of Harry's, which was supposed to be finalized this year. The FTC argues that bringing two major shaving brands together would hurt competition. Edgewell's Schick is the No. 2 razor maker in the U.S., behind Gillette. Both brands were forced to slash prices and overhaul their marketing strategies in recent years response to the rise of Harry's and rival Dollar Shave Club, which both started as direct-to-consumer digital brands.

"The loss of Harry's as an

independent competitor would remove a critical disruptive rival that has driven down prices and spurred innovation in an industry that was previously dominated by two main suppliers, one of whom is the acquirer," the FTC said. New York-based Harry's, which has expanded to sell its products at Target and Walmart, had hoped to capitalize on Edgewell's large distribution channels and Schick's blade technology. Edgewell, which has struggled to turn around Schick's slumping sales, had hoped to leverage Harry's direct-to-consumer marketing base and digital savvy.

Harry's co-founders Jeff Raider and Andy Katz-Mayfield said Monday they were disappointed by the lawsuit and would evaluate their next steps.

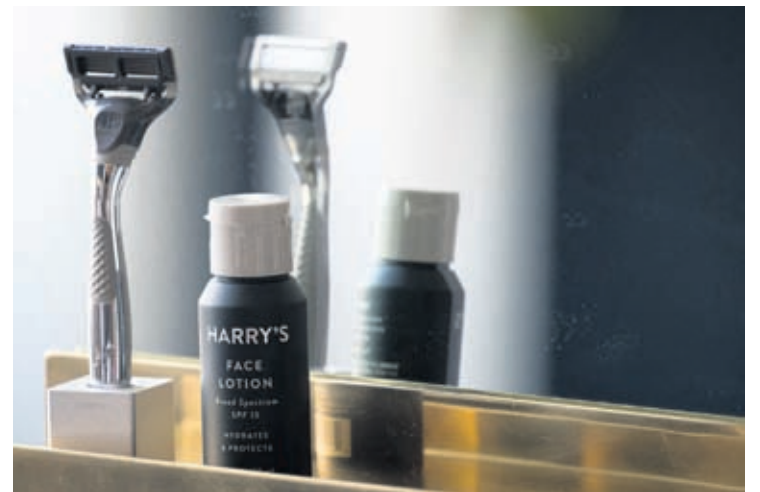
"We believe strongly that the combined company will deliver exceptional

brands and products at a great value," Raider and Katz-Mayfield said in a joint statement.

Edgewell CEO Rod Little said his company would respond to the lawsuit "in due course."

Raider and Katz-Mayfield, who are poised to become co-presidents of Edgewell's U.S. operations under the deal, have said Harry's would remain a distinct brand after the merger, including sticking with its competitive pricing. But the acquisition had raised questions among Wall Street analysts about how two competing shaving brands would exist under the same parent company without harming each other.

Shares of Edgewell rose 13.4% Monday. The company, based in Shelton, Connecticut, also owns the Banana Boat, Hawaiian Tropic, Playtex and Care-free brands. □



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, the Winston razor and Harry's face lotion are on display at the headquarters of Harry's Inc., in New York.

Associated Press

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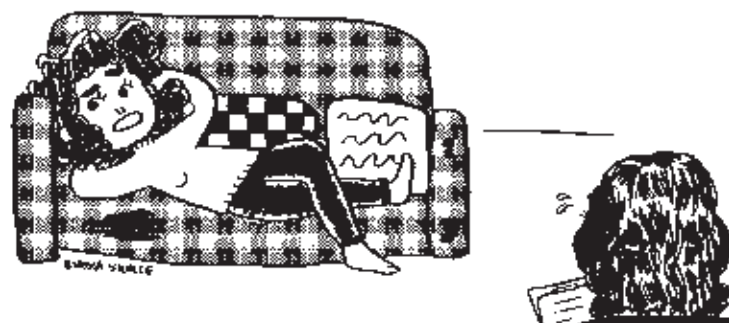
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This fully fenced-in property comes with kitchen with built-ins/ living room, 3 air conditioned bedrooms, and 2 bathrooms. This property has a private pool, a covered porch, and is located in a quiet street in Paradera. Built on 400m²/ 4280 sq.ft. of property land.

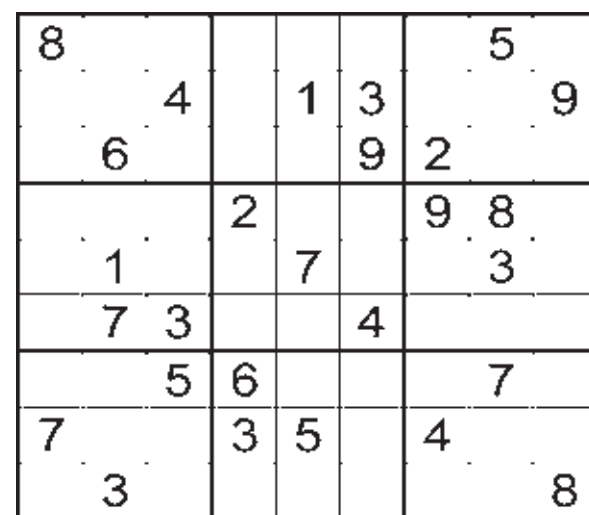
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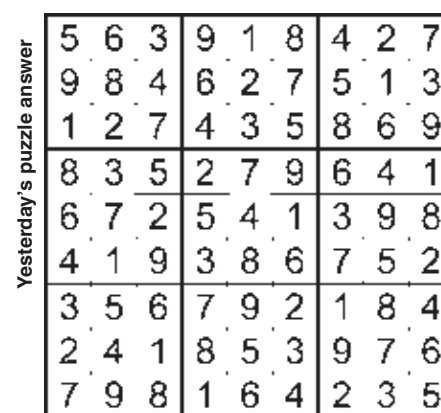
## Conceptis Sudoku



## Difficulty Level ★★



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



LOSS

- 1 Queen or king
- 5 Singer Page
- 10 Pierce
- 14 Taxi alternative
- 15 Feasts on Kasai
- 16 Toothpaste container
- 17 Soccer great
- 18 Intolerable
- 20 Obscene
- 21 Play divisions
- 22 Bobby of A
- 23 Furniture clings
- 25 Actress Taylor
- 25 Like a lute that stays in your head
- 26 Daquin favor
- 31 Actress Nurse
- 32 Piece of parsley
- 34 Assn for Drs. & others
- 36 Floated
- 37 Shocking vivid
- 38 Slick around
- 39 Diet's concern abler
- 40 Bus station
- 41 Com
- 42 Vagazine editions
- 44 Lifesaver
- 45 person each
- 45 Coat lining fabric
- 47 Value's thing
- 50 Clusters
- 51 Wine and dine
- 54 Department: store employee
- 57 Large female
- 58 Use the wine
- 59 Soothing balm
- 60 Carving too
- 61 Lasting too
- 62 Laptops
- 63 So-so trans

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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Created by Jacqueline E. Walther

2.121

Monday's Puzzle Solved

6	Dad's sisters	G O B I		D R A G		A C T S
7	Keep or watch carefully	E U R O S		R A C Y		T O R O
8	Today, about	T R E N T		O P E R A T I O N		
9	There lavam in the town ...	A S A	O W N		A M E N D S	
10	Song verse		T H R E E		T I N	
11	Vais	S C H E M E		W I S D O M		
12	-ooded; robust	H A L L S		P A I N S		V A L
13	Lager	I C E D		G O I N G		D E L I
19	Regreting	P A S		L A D L E		P A R T S
21	Sore		O S C A R S		T O M C A T	
24	Frosted a cake		A N D		W E L S H	
25	down; deposited	S C A R C E		O A K		A D M
26	Summon	C A R P E N T E R		A G R E E		
		A N C E		E A S T		S I G M A
		T E S T		R U S H		N E S

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2472

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29 Across the country	40 Songs for two	50 Satan's reign:
30 Flabbergast:	41 New York team	52 Sleep out
32 Has dinner	43 Drives too fast:	53 Change for a five
33 Pref. x for creature or portion	44 Team	55 Eric Samunda series, once
35 Certain votes	46 Do a waiter's job	56 Boy
37 Lascivious dok	47 As comfortable	57 Ford du ... WI
	48 Old shoe	
	49 Wise man	



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(\$18k/Wk.);  
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Carnival week sleep 4  
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2 BR Ocean View \$26 K

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2 BR Ocean Side \$ 18 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K  
3 BR Ocean View \$26 K

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27 weeks remain \$15 K  
1 BR WK 11  
building 7 on the 3rd floor  
33 weeks remain \$15 K

#### Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR Week # 8/9  
Penthouse 14th floor  
with 32/22 weeks remain  
\$20 K both weeks

#### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK # 4 \$8 K  
Birdie 1  
19 weeks remain  
Studio WK # 5  
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K  
28 weeks remain

#### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 6 \$8 K  
Birdie 1  
19 weeks remain  
Studio wk 7/8  
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K each  
27/29 weeks remain

#### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 8/9  
Eagle 9 \$9,5K each  
with 27/19 weeks remain

#### Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK #11  
Birdie 3 \$9 K  
26 weeks remain  
1 BR wk 12/13  
ground Floor  
With 33/34 weeks remain  
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each

#### Divi Village

Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K  
Building F  
21 weeks remain  
2 sd Floor 18 weeks remain

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1 BR WK 7/8 \$9 K each  
15 weeks remain each  
2 BR WK 7 \$18 K  
25 weeks remain

#### Dutch Village

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12 weeks remain  
1 BR WK 7/8 \$7 K  
12/24 weeks remain

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San Nicolas	584 5000
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Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Monarch

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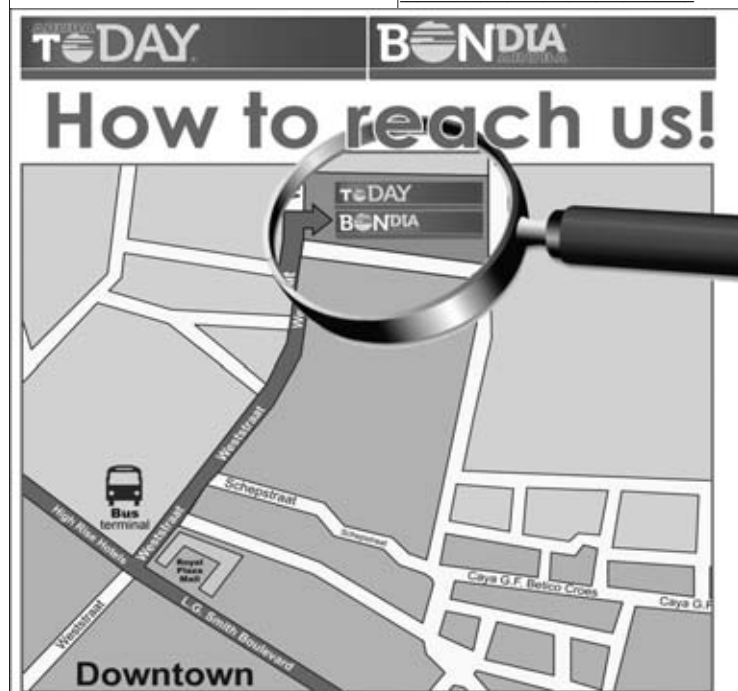
Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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# U.S. states join global push to ban animal-tested cosmetics

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — A growing number of U.S. states are considering a ban on the sale or import of cosmetics that have been tested on animals, as advocates argue testing products such as lotions, shampoos and makeup on rabbits, mice and rats is cruel and outdated.

The cause has gained support from consumers and many cosmetics companies, but the biggest hurdle is China, which requires that cosmetics sold in its large, lucrative market undergo testing on animals.

California, Nevada and Illinois all saw new laws take effect this year that ban the sale or import of animal-tested cosmetics.

The laws, which apply to tests performed after Jan. 1, aren't expected to cause much disruption for the industry because many companies already use non-animal testing. Instead, they draw a line in the sand that puts pressure on the U.S. government to pass a nationwide ban and help end China's requirement that most cosmetics sold in that nation of more than 1.4 billion people undergo testing on animals by Chinese regulators.

China's policy applies to all imported cosmetics, including makeup, perfume and hair care products, along with some "special use" goods produced in China, such as hair dye, sunscreen and whitening products that make functional claims.

Animal-tested cosmetics already are banned in Europe, India and elsewhere. A ban in the United States, one of the world's largest economies, would put further global pressure on China to end its policy and



In this Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, photo scientist and study director Jennifer Mollignano uses an electronic pipette to prepare culture medium, a dark pink fluid that provides nutrition to living human skin tissue, as she sets up a demonstration of experiments at a MatTek Corporation lab, in Ashland, Mass.

Associated Press

push Chinese cosmetics companies to rely on non-animal tests if they want to sell their products in the U.S. "We're not trying to create an island out here in Nevada," said state Sen. Melanie Scheible, who sponsored Nevada's law. "We are trying to join a group of other communities that have stood up and said, 'We don't support animal testing.'"

Animal-rights groups like Cruelty Free International and the Humane Society of the United States hope to get more states to pass bans this year.

Legislation has been introduced or will soon be made public in Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Virginia, according to Cruelty Free International, and a national ban has been introduced in Congress since 2014, though the bipartisan measure has been

slow to advance. The most recent version introduced in November marks the first time the country's leading cosmetics trade group, the Personal Care Products Council, has become a vocal backer of the ban, support that should ease lawmaker concerns about business opposition.

The California, Nevada and Illinois laws create exemptions for any cosmetics that were tested on animals to comply with regulations of a foreign government — an exception that acknowledges the reality that most companies will see their products tested on animals if they sell in China. China is a "big complicating factor," said Monica Engebretson, who leads public affairs for Cruelty Free International in North America. "That's put companies that want to enter that Chinese market in a real bind."

Scheible said her aim in Nevada was not to punish those multinational corporations but to raise awareness and put pressure on other governments, like China, to act.

"A lot of people thought that we no longer tested on animals at all," she said. "They thought that this was

already a thing of the past."

The bans in all three states require cosmetics sellers to use non-animal tests to prove their products are safe. Many international companies are already doing that after the European Union passed a series of similar bans on animal testing, culminating with a 2013 ban on the sale of animal-tested products.

Supporters note that science has advanced, allowing companies in most cases to use non-animal alternatives — such as human cell cultures or lab-grown human skin and eye tissue — to test whether a product or ingredient is safe.

For example, EpiDerm, a synthetic skin tissue made by Massachusetts-based MatTek Corp., is created from cells taken from skin donated during procedures such as breast reduction surgery, circumcision and tummy tuck procedures.

Products can be applied to synthetic tissue to determine whether they cause skin irritation, damage, sensitivity or other issues. That can be used in place of a testing a product on the back of a shaved rabbit, animal rights supporters

say.

Some of the biggest names in personal care and beauty, including Avon, Unilever and Procter & Gamble, have used MatTek's tissues for testing.

Carl Westmoreland, a safety scientist with Unilever, said the European Union ban drove more innovation in non-animal testing. Companies like Unilever, trade groups and advocates are among those working with Chinese regulators and scientists to push for new rules, helping to familiarize them with procedures and results from non-animal tests.

"They have been changing and are continuing to change," he said, noting China in recent years has allowed some cosmetics produced within the country to avoid animal testing. Francine Lamoriello, executive vice president for global strategies at the Personal Care Products Council said it's a slow process, but Chinese regulators are working to accept non-animal tests. "They're having conferences. They really seem to be quite motivated to do as best as they can to accept and validate certain methods," she said.

The Personal Care Products Council supports most of the state legislation but is pushing for a nationwide law instead of a patchwork of rules across the country. Similar to the state laws, the proposed ban before Congress would exempt cosmetics required to undergo testing in China. It would allow those products to be sold in the U.S. as long as sellers relied on additional, non-animal tests to show they are safe.

California was first to pass the legislation in 2018, a move that's part of the state's pattern of wielding its status as the world's fifth-largest economy to push change.

"That's the beauty of doing things in California," said Judie Mancuso with the group Social Compassion in Legislation who pressed for that state's ban. "You set the stage, you set the standard, and others grab it and grow." □



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24/7





Han Yeri, from top left, Steven Yeun, director Lee Isaac Chung, Yuh Jung Youn, from bottom left, Alan Kim, and Noel Cho pose for a portrait to promote the film "Minari" at the Music Lodge during the Sundance Film Festival on Monday, Jan. 27, 2020, in Park City, Utah.

Associated Press

## 'Minari,' 'Boys State' win top honors at Sundance

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Korean-American family drama "Minari," Lee Isaac Chung's tender autobiographical tale about his upbringing in rural Arkansas, won two top honors at the Sundance Film Festival. Awards for the annual festival for independent film were handed out Saturday night in Park City, Utah. "Minari," starring Steven Yeun, had arguably been the biggest critical sensation at Sundance, earning raves for the immigrant drama set in 1980s Arkansas. It's produced by Plan B Productions, with Brad Pitt as an executive producer; A24 will release it later this year.

The film snagged the U.S. dramatic grand jury prize and the dramatic audience award, voted on by festival audiences, at Sundance.

The top documentary prize went to Jesse Moss and Amanda McBaine's "Boys State," a portrait of the annual mock-government competition held in Texas with politically ambitious 17-year-old boys. The film reportedly fetched a record acquisition price for a documentary at Sundance, with A24 and Apple picking up "Boys State" for \$12 million.

"Crip Camp," a history of

the disability rights movement as emanating from a summer camp in up-state New York, took the audience award for documentary. Nicole Newnham and Jim Lebrecht's film, is a Netflix release backed by Barack and Michelle Obama's Higher Ground Productions.

The juried awards are chosen by small panels of filmmakers and critics.

In stark contrast to Hollywood's Oscars season, many of the directing awards went to women. Radha Blank won best director in the dramatic competition for her breakthrough debut "The 40-Year-Old Version." The film, produced by Lena Waithe, is a black-and-white, semi-autobiographical tale about a New York playwright who turns to rapping. The jury also gave special awards to Josephine Decker for her Shirley Jackson drama "Shirley," for auteur filmmaking; and Eliza Hittman for her teen abortion drama "Never Rarely Sometimes Always," for neorealism.

The award for documentary directing went to Garrett Bradley for "Time," about a Louisiana activist' years-long effort to get her husband released from a 60-year prison sentence. □



In this June 12, 2016 file photo, Lin-Manuel Miranda and the cast of "Hamilton" perform at the Tony Awards in New York.

Associated Press

## 'Hamilton' by original cast coming to a film screen near you

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Next year, you'll be able to see the original Broadway cast of "Hamilton" perform the musical smash from the comfort of a movie theater.

The Walt Disney Company said Monday it will distribute a four-year-old live capture of Lin-Manuel Miranda's show in the United States and Canada on Oct. 15, 2021.

The groundbreaking, biographical hip-hop show about the life of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton won 11 Tony Awards

and made numerous tours.

The film was made at the Richard Rodgers Theatre on Broadway in June of 2016 and will star all of the original Tony Award winners — Miranda as Alexander Hamilton; Daveed Diggs as Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson; Renée Elise Goldsberry as Angelica Schuyler; and Leslie Odom Jr. as Aaron Burr.

Others who star include Christopher Jackson as George Washington; Jonathan Groff as King

George; Phillipa Soo as Eliza Hamilton; Jasmine Cephas Jones as Peggy Schuyler/Maria Reynolds; Okieriete Onaodowan as Hercules Mulligan/James Madison; and Anthony Ramos as John Laurens/Philip Hamilton. The filmed version is directed by the show's director, Tommy Kail.

"We are thrilled for fans of the show, and new audiences across the world, to experience what it was like onstage — and in the audience — when we shot this," Kail said in a statement. □

## Ben Platt named Hasty Pudding's 2020 Man of the Year

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)** — Award-winning actor and musician Ben Platt was named 2020 Man of the Year by Harvard University's famed Hasty Pudding theater troupe on Monday. Platt, 26, is the youngest recipient in the 54-year history of the award, handed out annually by the troupe that dates to the late 18th century.

"We're thrilled to honor Ben Platt as our 54th Man of

the Year because of the incredible impact he has had on Broadway and in Hollywood at such a young age," Hasty Pudding co-producer Natalie Needle said in a statement. "As our youngest Man of the Year, Ben has had a remarkable career as an actor and musician."

Platt will receive his pudding pot at a celebratory roast on Friday. A performance of "Mean Ghouls,"

Hasty Pudding's second production including women in the cast, will follow.

Platt won a Tony in 2017 for "Dear Evan Hansen," while the cast recording took home the Grammy for best musical theater album, as well as a Daytime Emmy for their performance on "The Today Show."

Platt is also known for his role as Benji Applebaum in the films "Pitch Perfect" and "Pitch Perfect 2." □





Singers Shakira, left, and Jennifer Lopez perform during the half-time show at the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game between the San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs, Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

## Super Bowl halftime show draws praise, tears from U.S. Latinos

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)**

— When the Super Bowl halftime show began, Yol-Itzma Aguirre and her relatives watched with anticipation. The El Paso, Texas, family was curious how Colombian-born Shakira and New York-raised Jennifer Lopez, two of the world's most popular Latino artists, would seize the stage.

The performance Sunday was draped in Hollywood tropes of female sexuality. But it also contained subtle political messages about anxieties shared by many Latinos in the U.S. — children in cages, Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria and the urge to be heard.

Aguirre, 39, had to watch the performance again. "My sister was tearing up. We saw more things," Aguirre said. "We stopped caring about the game."

Across the U.S., Latinos took to social media to praise and dissect the show.

Shakira paid homage to her Colombian roots by performing the mapalé — an Afro-Colombian style of dance from the country's Caribbean coast. She also made a tongue expression called zaghrouta, a way to express joy in Arab culture. Her father is of Lebanese descent.

During her performance, Lopez brought out a dual Puerto Rican-American flag while her daughter sang the lyrics to Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the U.S.A." Her daughter and other children with American flags on their shirts had emerged from what appeared to be steel cages. "Let's get loud!" Lopez sang as her daughter sang the Springsteen hook. Shakira hit some drums.

In the background, strobe lights crossed each other to form an image of a cage. Latinos saw the juxtaposition as a call for them to vote, being mindful that American authorities on the U.S.-Mexico border separated migrant children from their parents and locked them up.

"It was brilliant," said Aguirre, a writer who has toured immigration facilities holding children.

Others pointed out that Lopez held up a Puerto Rican flag — once banned in 1948 — at a time of anger over how President Donald Trump has handled relief efforts after the island was hit by the hurricane and a recent earthquake.

The flag became a symbol of resilience and hope following the hurricane, which struck in September 2017 as a Category 4 storm. It caused more than \$100 billion in damage and killed an estimated 2,975 people in its aftermath. The flag also became a symbol of resistance and justice last summer when massive protests over corruption and other issues led to the resignation of the island's former governor.

Luivette Resto, a Puerto Rico-born poet who now lives in Los Angeles, said she felt conflicted about the use of the flag because of the island's history.

"Puerto Rico is still a colony of the U.S.," Resto said. "We're treated like property."

But Resto said she was glad the appearance of the flag sparked needed conversations about Puerto Rico's status. Still, she was disappointed that more Afro-Latinos or Mexicans were not represented in the performance — a critique shared by many on social media. The legendary Mexican band Los Tigres del Norte from San Jose, California, opened the Spanish broadcast for Super Bowl LIV, but the performance was not seen on the English broadcast.

Others said they are satisfied by the overall Latina theme of the performance. "It was a PERFECT example of how different cultures can exist under the 'Latino' umbrella," comedian Cristela Alonzo tweeted. "We are different from each other and therefore should be allowed to tell DIFFERENT stories. See us as indi-

viduals."

The halftime show wasn't the only moment for Latinos on Super Bowl Sunday. The game began with multi-platinum Demi Lovato singing the national anthem. The Albuquerque, New Mexico-born Lovato is a descendant of Francisco Perea, a Hispanic hero for the Union in the Civil War who saw President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. The rendition by Lovato, who is recovering from drug addiction, sparked an emotional response from the people of New Mexico — a state with the nation's highest percentage of Hispanic residents that has historically had some of the country's highest drug overdose death rates.

For Shakira, this wasn't her first time participating in an event with a political dimension. In 2011, for example, she told The Associated Press that proposed anti-immigrant legislation in some U.S. states went against her foundation's efforts to provide education to poor people around the world. The Grammy Award-winning singer said Latino immigrants in the U.S. who were facing anti-immigrant bills would have "justice" as public awareness about their plight grew.

"Justice will come. I'm sure," Shakira told the AP after receiving an award at Harvard University. "Wherever there is ... a kid, who could be the son or the daughter of a Latino immigrant, who cannot attend a school in the United States of America, that kid should be a concern to all of us and our responsibility."

Lopez rarely speaks out on social issues, and her fiancé, retired baseball player Alex Rodriguez, famously avoided addressing the mistreatment of Latinos as an active player.

But in recent months, Lopez has loaned her name to causes. In August, she signed an open letter in support of Latinos after deadly shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Gilroy, California. □

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SUN 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40  
PBP MON-THU 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35  
FRI 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35 | 11:40  
SAT 1:15 | 3:20 | 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35 | 11:40  
SUN 1:15 | 3:20 | 5:25 | 7:30 | 9:35

**STREET DANCER 3**  
VARUN DHAWAN | SHRADDHA KAPOOR  
PBP MON-FRI 5:45 | 8:50  
SAT-SUN 2:40 | 5:45 | 8:50

**BAD BOYS FOR LIFE**  
WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
PH MON-THU 7:40  
FRI 7:40 | 10:20  
SAT 2:10 | 4:55 | 7:40 | 10:20  
SUN 2:10 | 4:55 | 7:40  
PBP MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:35  
SAT-SUN 3:05 | 5:50 | 8:35  
CXC MON-THU 5:10 | 7:30  
FRI 5:10 | 7:30 | 10:00  
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SUN 2:50 | 5:10 | 7:30  
PBP MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20  
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

**ALSO SHOWING!**

**THE TURNING**  
MACKENZIE DAVIS | FINN WOLFHARD  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]  
PH MON-THU 6:15 | 8:30  
FRI 6:15 | 8:30 | 10:15  
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SUN 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30

**DOLITTLE**  
ROBERT DOWNEY JR. | ANTONIO BANDERAS  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]  
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**1917**  
DEAN-CHARLES CHAPMAN | GEORGE MACKAY  
10 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]  
PBP MON-SUN 6:25 | 9:00

**SPIES IN DISGUISE**  
WILL SMITH | TOM HOLLAND  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]  
PBP MON-FRI 4:05  
SAT-SUN 1:45 | 4:05

**JUMANJI THE NEXT LEVEL**  
DWAYNE JOHNSON | JACK BLACK  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]  
PBP MON-THU 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10  
FRI 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:45  
SAT 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:45  
SUN 1:10 | 3:50 | 6:30 | 9:10

**JUST MERCY**  
MICHAEL B. JORDAN | JAMIE FOXX  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]  
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# Gift or keep: The afterlives of red carpet looks is a dance

By LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Remember the ethereal pale blue Prada dress Lupita Nyong'o wore the night she won an Oscar in 2014? How about Glenn Close's moment in gold at last year's Oscars in shimmering Carolina Herrera with the long, liquid cape?

In a sea of red carpets, both are among top talent who got to keep their fancy duds.

How a red carpet moment comes together, and what happens to the clothes after, can be a peculiar affair that heavily depends on who you are and what your relationship happens to be with the designer in question. A designer's decision to gift or not to gift often comes after the big night is over and it's time for stylists to pack 'em up and ship 'em back.

"They're delighted if the designer says, 'Oh, please keep it. I made that just for her. She should have it,'" said stylist Emily Sanchez, who has dressed Laura Linney and Sutton Foster, among others. "If a designer feels they're going to want something back immediately, they're pretty transparent about it."

Many gowns live out their days in a designer's archives, to be lent out to museums or for other special events, such as the Christian Siriano tuxedo gown Billy Porter wore at last year's Oscars and recently put on again for "Sesame Street." Far rarer is a celebrity buying them instead.

"For Oprah, we have dresses custom made and pay for them, so she keeps hers," said Adam Glassman, creative director of O, The Oprah magazine. These days, Sanchez said, most nominees are offered bespoke.

"That's sort of like the big honor. Typically you get to work with the designer directly. It's such a huge press opportunity so designers are pretty excited to do that," she said. "If you won, you probably want the dress, but I think everyone who goes to one of these

events is fully prepared to give the dress back at the end of the day."

Coming at the end of the awards season, the Oscars are a mad scramble for fresh looks after an exhausting cycle of red carpets, parties and other appearances. There are fewer nominees to dress, along with presenters.

Stylist Micaela Erlanger, who has worked with Nyong'o, Meryl Streep and others, said the Oscars are a mix of custom, couture or never-worn runway looks, the latter sometimes with modifications to the silhouette or color. Generally, Erlanger strives for custom.

"It's the end of the season so you kind of have to resort to custom. So much has already been through the circuit. By the Oscars, I've probably seen every dress out there," she said.

When it comes to gifting, every brand is different, Erlanger said.

"Some brands want to keep them for their own archives. The brand decides that and the client is happy either way," she said. "I'd say it's 50-50. If someone wins in a dress, generally speaking the brands are more inclined to give that as a gift because it's very sentimental."

For the Oscars this year, she's dressing Sigourney Weaver for the show and Diane Kruger for the Vanity Fair after-party.

Stylist Chloe Hartstein will be dressing presenter Chris Rock for the Oscars. She worked with two nominees, Close and Melissa McCarthy, last year.

Keeping the clothes isn't automatic for nominees, including those who win, Hartstein said.

"It's a Cinderella moment where you wear it and then the next morning I'm there bright and early to grab it and pack it up and send it to Paris or wherever it needs to be. But there are moments where you're lucky enough to keep them," she said.

With many thousands of dollars of work and materials at stake, along with long hours of labor, some de-



This March 2, 2014 file photo shows Lupita Nyong'o in a pale blue Prada dress at the Oscars in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

signers are more generous than others.

Jennifer Lopez kept her original Versace jungle dress of green silk chiffon that was the talk of the 2000 Grammys. Prior to Lopez making the dress with the plunging neckline among the most famous of all time, it was a runway piece that had been featured in a Versace ad campaign and was worn by Geri Halliwell and Donatella, the latter to the 1999 Met Gala.

Versace made duplicates for museum display, including the Grammy Museum, and Lopez wore a reimagined version for the Versace show at last September's Milan Fashion Week.

Close enjoyed a slew of custom pieces last year with her nominations for "The Wife." She was gifted a black velvet cape look by Armani Prive from the Golden Globes after she won for best actress in a drama. She was also gifted the white crystal Ralph Lauren suit she wore when she won a Screen Actors Guild award for the same film.

This year at the Golden Globes, Close was a presenter and wore a royal blue custom gown by Armani Prive. It, too, was gifted. The Oscar de la Renta caftan she wore to



This combination photo shows Oprah Winfrey walking on stage to present the award for best documentary feature during the 83rd Academy Awards in Los Angeles on Feb. 27, 2011, left, and Winfrey arriving at the Oscars in Los Angeles on Feb. 22, 2015.

Associated Press

the Screen Actors Guild awards wasn't custom and went back after she presented there.

"She has a beautiful relationship with Mr. Armani. She's been wearing the brand forever," Hartstein said. "With Glenn last season, it's a discussion we had throughout the process."

Close has a keen interest in fashion, amassing personal looks but also costumes from her films and other projects throughout her nearly 40-year career. She donated her costume collection to Indiana University in 2017.

Actress Kaitlyn Dever, who wore a soft pink strapless Miu Miu gown to the Brit-

ish Academy Film Awards, said her red carpet strategy is with sustainability in mind.

"I borrow them," Dever said on Sunday's BAFTA red carpet. "I'm trying to be more green in every aspect of my life. ... I'm really trying in all areas. I think if you just try a little bit at least, that does something."

Saoirse Ronan, who's nominated for best actress at the upcoming Oscars, said her black Gucci gown at the BAFTAs included repurposed fabric. Does she get to keep it?

"No, they usually go back," said Ronan and several others at the British awards show. □



# Why do so many Americans now support legalizing marijuana?

By Amy Adamczyk  
Associated Press

American views on marijuana have shifted incredibly rapidly. Thirty years ago, marijuana legalization seemed like a lost cause. In 1988, only 24 percent of Americans supported legalization.

But steadily, the nation began to liberalize. By 2018, 66 percent of U.S. residents offered their approval, transforming marijuana legalization from a libertarian fantasy into a mainstream cause. Many state laws have changed as well. Over the last quarter-century, 10 states have legalized recreational marijuana, while 22 states have legalized medical marijuana.

So why has public opinion changed dramatically in favor of legalization? In a study published this February, we examined a range of possible reasons, finding that the media likely had the greatest influence.

It's not about use, geography or demographics. Our study ruled out a few obvious possibilities.

For one, it's not about marijuana use. Yes, marijuana use has increased. Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health show that, in 2002, about 10 percent of adults reported using marijuana the previous year. By 2015, 13.5 percent reported using. But that increase is too small to have had much of an impact on attitudes.

And it's not about older, more conservative Americans being replaced by younger generations who are more familiar with marijuana. Both younger and older people developed more liberal views about the legalization of marijuana at a similar pace over the last 30 years. In this way, changes in attitudes about marijuana legalization mirror recent increases in support for LGBTQ individuals.

We looked to see if people who lived in states where it was illegal, but resided next to ones where it became legal, were more likely to have changed their views. But the rate of change has



In this Dec. 14, 2010 file photo, a marijuana plant is seen growing at Med Grow Cannabis College in Southfield, Mich.

Associated Press

been no different in states that legalized marijuana than in others. Likewise, the pace of change has been similar across political parties, religions, educational levels, racial and ethnic groups and gender. As politically polarized as the country may seem, when it comes to marijuana, Americans

people disaffiliating with religion. The proportion of people who do not identify with a religion has increased some, by about 7 percent between 2007 and 2014. People who do not have a religion tend to be more liberal than others. However, this factor accounts for only a small proportion of the change.

began to increase shortly after the news media began to frame marijuana as a medical issue.

We took The New York Times as a case study, looking at the number of published articles from 1983 to 2015 about marijuana. Just before the number of Americans supporting legalization began to in-



In this Oct. 2, 2018, file photo, a clerk reaches for a container of marijuana buds for a customer at Utopia Gardens, a medical marijuana dispensary in Detroit.

Associated Press

have been changing their attitudes together, as a nation.

We did find that a small part of the increase in support was related to more

Media medical framing. So what's going on? What has likely made the biggest difference is how the media has portrayed marijuana. Support for legalization

crease, we found a sharp increase in the proportion of articles about marijuana that discussed its medical uses.

In the 1980s, the vast major-

ity of New York Times stories about marijuana were about drug trafficking and abuse or other Schedule I drugs. At that time, The New York Times was more likely to lump marijuana together in a kind of unholy trinity with cocaine and heroin in discussions about drug smuggling, drug dealers and the like.

During the 1990s, stories discussing marijuana in criminal terms became less prevalent. Meanwhile, the number of articles discussing the medical uses of marijuana slowly increased. By the late 1990s, marijuana was rarely discussed in the context of drug trafficking and drug abuse. And marijuana had lost its association with other Schedule I drugs like cocaine and heroin in the New York Times. Gradually, the stereotypical persona of the marijuana user shifted from the stoned slacker wanting to get high to the aging boomer seeking pain relief. Of course, many Americans do not read The New York Times. But analysis of newspapers of record, like this one, provide insight into how the news media has changed its framing of marijuana, especially during an era when newspapers were still a primary news source.

Harsh criminal justice system As Americans became more supportive of marijuana legalization, they also increasingly told survey researchers that the criminal justice system was too harsh.

In the late 1980s, the "war on drugs" and sentencing reform laws put a large number of young men, often black and Latino, behind bars for lengthy periods of time. As Americans started to feel the full social and economic effects of tough-on-crime initiatives, they reconsidered the problems with criminalizing marijuana.

Because support for the legalization of marijuana and concerns about the harshness of the criminal justice system changed at about the same time, it's difficult to know what came first. □